



ABOVE: One local store's Christmas contribution. (See page 5 for details)

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 2010

Gloves come off as fortnightly refuse collection row rages on

A POLITICAL row is brewing over the decision by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to scrap the weekly refuse collection in favour of more recycling and a black bag collection once a fortnight.

Allegations have been made that the ruling Labour cabinet used special powers to push the decision through, bypassing the scrutiny process, but this has been denied.

Opposition leader Cheryl Green said that all information about the new waste contract, which has been awarded to contractor May Gurney, was placed on 'pink papers', which meant that the press was kept in the dark about what was happening.

In addition, when the November cabinet meeting agreed to award the multi-million pound contract, it was treated as an "urgent matter" with the express permission of council leader Mel Nott, which meant that the communities and environment scrutiny committee had no power to call it in.

'We're following the preferred Assembly model' – says council

IN A statement to The GEM, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) says it is scrapping weekly refuse collections and moving to the new system, as this is the Welsh Assembly Government's "preferred model".

From June, residents will be able to recycle most of their household rubbish each week, including kitchen food

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

and scrutinise it.

Coun Green asked: "Why was this treated as an urgent matter when officers have known for the past seven years that the present waste contract is due to run out in April?"

"Why was more time not allowed so that proper scrutiny could be afforded?"

"This decision has been rushed through – it has all the hallmarks of Troed-y-ton, whose closure was also pushed through, although at least that went to scrutiny."

However, BCBC's response said that although it was dealt with as an urgent item, it was not exempt from call-in by scrutiny.

In a statement, a BCBC spokesman said: "Members were all emailed the day after the November 3 cabinet meeting to inform them that the call-in period for cabinet decisions would expire on November 9 – and no call-in requests were received."

Coun Green stuck to her guns, saying that under cabinet rule 2.4, anything treated as urgent is not subject to

scrutiny. She insisted: "Anyone with experience of scrutiny would know that, which is why nobody called it in."

"Nobody has the power to overrule the council's constitution. Saying now that it could have been scrutinised is completely unconstitutional."

Coun Green claimed that although all members receive cabinet papers – including the confidential ones – these never spelt out that the basis of the new tender was to be a fortnightly collection rather than the present weekly one.

She said: "It is only now that I have gone back and looked again at these papers that I realise there was a single line in the report which referred to 'alternative weekly collections'.

"There are a lot of councillors who had no idea that this change was being brought in. "We still have no idea how the new system will operate but we are stuck with it for another seven years.

"It is very unsatisfactory. There should have been proper consulta-

tion before any decisions were made."

Coun Green said that the officers had attempted to bring in fortnightly refuse collections when she was council leader.

"But we refused to contemplate it," she said:

"We dug our heels in, and the officers had to back down. It would appear that they have managed to win over the Labour cabinet much more easily."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

Local man honoured for community work

A VALLEYS champion has just been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours.

Arnold Owen from Blackmill has worked for years in the village planting 100,000 daffodil bulbs, and organising other environmental improvements.

But his nomination is for his work in commemorating the men from south Wales who fought against Franco in the Spanish Civil War. One of those who died was his brother Frank.

"We were brought up in Maerdy in the Rhondda and it was a hotbed of communism in the 1930s," recalled Arnold.

"In fact, it was known as Little Moscow. Frank went off and never came back."

Mr Owen has worked for years to get plaques put up to the men who died, and he has also been involved in organising an exhibition about the war which has toured many venues throughout Wales.

Mr Owen, now aged 91, worked for the Rhondda Bus Company and has lived in Blackmill for many years. His wife Mary died two years ago, but he has daughters Christine and Diane and

SNOW FAR, SO GOOD...

Bridgend keeps moving (just!)

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

REFUSE collection services in Bridgend were disrupted by the snow on Wednesday and no collections took place.

But the council is advising residents to put their black bags out as normal and they will be collected as soon as weather permits. If necessary, extra collections will take place on Saturday to clear up any backlog.

The council has deployed street cleaning staff to help with gritting and snow clearance operations and priority is being given to pedestrian footways in the town centres of Maesteg, Porthcawl, Bridgend and Pencoed.

Some north Wales councils are reported to be short of salt, but the council had stockpiled 3,000 tonnes of salt ready for the winter and has enough for a further 18 days gritting opera-

tions. A further 3,000 tonnes has been ordered to see the council through the rest of the winter.

Most schools in Bridgend were closed, with only three remaining open – Mynydd Cynffig Junior, Brackla Primary and Llangwydd Junior School.

Bus services were running from early Wednesday around most of the borough.

A spokesman for First Cymru said that the services were running along main roads and were not going into housing estates, other than part of Cefn Glas.

The main problems were in the valleys, where buses could not get up as far as Blaengarw or Nantymoel until later in the day.

The buses to Maesteg were able to run as far as Caerau, but were unable to get up the hill to Cymmer.

(Continued on page 7)



ABOVE: This was an all too common sight in the borough yesterday, as heavy snowfall turned everything white! (SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 8)

Big winner after Porthcawl charity quiz is...Macmillan!



ABOVE: Macmillan Cancer Support recently received a welcome boost following a quiz night organised by Caroline Tranter, the manager of Barclays Bank in Porthcawl, and friends which raised a remarkable £2,000. Accepting the cheque for the Macmillan was Liz Cole, the area fundraising manager.

LET US NOT FORGET THE DEBT WE OWE TO CAB VOLUNTEERS

THE day after Britain declared war on Nazi Germany, a young solicitor and his wife opened the front room of their house to the public in order to give information and advice to people.

On that day, 200 such 'Advice Bureaux' were established across Britain with the support of the government. Their task was to disseminate information to people in their local areas about emergency war procedures and facilities.

September 4, 2009,

marked 70 years of operation and service for this organisation, which most of us now know as the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This amazing charity continues to provide free, independent, confidential and impartial advice on any issue to anyone. The charity is actively involved in helping to form new policies and regulations at all levels.

The Citizens Advice Bureau's services have been used by half of the UK population at some point in their lives, and there is almost no query that the staff can't help you tackle.

There are now 426 bureaux across Wales

**by MADELEINE MOON,
MP FOR BRIDGEND**

and England, and almost two million people sought help with more than six million problems last year alone.

Considering the current economic climate, it is perhaps no surprise that the bulk of new queries relate to personal finances and mortgage arrears.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is currently handling about 9,300 new debt cases every working day as the economic downturn continues to take its toll. The charity has also reported a 50 per cent jump in the

number of people struggling to pay mortgage and utility bills. Helping people through my role as Bridgend MP, I know that talking through issues is very important and that getting the right information to help is even more important.

A recent survey showed that more than half of the people who sought advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau felt more relaxed and positive about their situation as a result of the help they received.

People can, however, only benefit from using

this service, if there are staff to run it. Out of 27,000 people working for the Citizens Advice Bureau, 21,000 are volunteers? More volunteers are desperately needed to help with all aspects of the charity.

The annual report of the Bridgend CAB records an impressive volume of work. Not surprisingly, enquiries are up 2,571 over the year to an impressive 13,089. The top five issues which brought people to the office seeking help and advice were benefits, debt, employment, relationships and housing.

Interestingly, the age ranges of people attend-

ing were varied, though the majority were in the 35-49 age group.

It is clear that the Citizens Advice Bureau is as important and useful today as it has ever been, and people will hopefully continue to both use the service and to volunteer to help.

Citizens Advice Bureau contacts:
Bridgend: 26 Dunraven Place (opposite the Post Office). Telephone: 01656654951. Advice by telephone: Monday – Friday 10am – 1pm.
Advice at the bureau:
Tuesday – Friday 10am – 12.30pm. Porthcawl: Trinity Church, John Street. Every Tuesday 10am – 12.30pm.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend
Westminster office - 02072194417, Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am – 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 75002.

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777

JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034

CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320

Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549

BRIDGENG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open: Mon: 10:00am to 1:00pm - No callers - Phone only; Tue: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes ... hour earlier; Wed: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes ... hour earlier; Thu: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes ... hour earlier; Fri: 10:00am to 1:00pm - Closes ... hour earlier.

MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau 01656 734662

POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555

Porthcawl 01656 785411

Maesteg 01656 732122

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111

(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534

GAS (escapes and emergency) 0800 111999

ELECTRICITY (power cuts) 0800 0520400

WATER SUPPLY (emergency) 0800 0520130

FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188

HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

Drinkline 0800 9172822

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SFAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need 01656 785435

RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support) 01656 662333

MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

NSPCA 0800 800500

RSPCA 0300 123 0744

WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139

Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479

Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490

BRIDGENG COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Housing service

(General inquiries) 01656 643643;

(emergencies out of hours) 01656 643643;

(homelessness) 01656 643643.

EDUCATION 01656 643643

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677

HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) 01656 643643

HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES

(outside normal working hours) 07831 143600

SOCIAL SERVICES

(general enquiries) 01656 642200

SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES

(outside normal working hours) 01443 204010

HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend 01656 752752/668090.

Bridgend and District NHS Trust 01656 752752/668090.

VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Brackla Community Council 01656 767072

Bridgend Town Council 01656 659943

Cefn Cribwr Community Council 01656 741354

Coity Higher Community Council 01656 656358

Cornelly Community Council 07882 044798

Pyle Community Council 01656 670251

Cochychurch Higher Community Council 01656 863418

Cochychurch Lower Community Council 01656 647216

Garw Valley Community Council 01656 736751

Laleston Community Council 01656 656506

Llangynwyd Lower Council 01656 720086

Maesteg Town Council 01656 732631

Merthyr Mawr Community Council 01656 670058

Newcastle Higher Community Council 01446 750663.

Ogmore Valley Community Council 01656 849402

Pencoed Town Council 01656 869031

Porthcawl Town Council 01656 782215

St Brides Minor Community Council 01656 725031

Ynysawdre Community Council 01656 736751

Traffic lights a waste of money'

IREFER to the article in The GEM dated December 31 re traffic lights on roundabouts.

We have lived in the area for almost 50 years and for most of that time, there were no traffic lights on Bridgend Estate, Waterton or Ewenny roundabouts.

While the lights were disabled at Waterton, all the traffic moved smoothly, causing no hold-ups. Whoever designed the sequence of lights at Ewenny certainly seemed to lack intelligence, because they are absolutely crazy.

Mr R Evans, Pencoed

Nominate local shop for award

BRIDGENG MP Madeleine Moon is calling on residents from the borough to nominate their 'Small Shop of the Year'.

The annual award from the All-Party Parliamentary Small Shops Group is judged on the following criteria: product, family/history, innovation, originality, investment and sustainability.

"A shortlist will be drawn up by members of the All-Party group and a winner selected by an independent person from the business community. The deadline for nominations is February 1," the MP explained.

"This competition brings an opportunity to show our appreciation

for these local shops. I am therefore hopeful that people will get behind this initiative and show their support for local independent retailers.

"In the Bridgend area, we have a wide variety of small shops providing excellent services all year round and I am eager for one of our local shops to win this competition," the MP added.

Anyone wishing to nominate a local shop should contact Ms Moon by email at moonm@parliament.co.uk or write to the constituency office at 47 Nolton Street Bridgend CF31 3AA, outlining how their local shop meets the criteria.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF7 1EL.

'Why were the lights at roundabout re-instated?'

OVER the past four months, the journey into Bridgend along the A48 has been a delight.

The suspension of the use of the many sets of traffic lights at the Waterton roundabout has allowed traffic to flow unhindered from all directions throughout the day.

It comes as no surprise to see the reinstatement of the lights

and an immediate return to congestion and far slower roundabout transit times. It does, however, beg the question, why the re-instatement?

At the end of 2004, when the lights were introduced, warning was given that the overall effect would be to seriously slow down traffic flow.

Not surprisingly, this happened, leading to endless queuing around this and other traffic light controlled roundabouts in the area.

Perhaps the authority used, why aren't all roundabouts on all busy roads throughout the UK subject to the same controls?

Perhaps the authority will use your pages to provide a detailed break-

down of the incidence of accidents at Waterton (if any) over this period and provide a comparison with similar periods in the recent past when lights were in use.

Equally, they should provide information as to the believed reason why any accident occurred and would it have been avoided by the presence of lights.

If enough motorists express similar views, perhaps a rethink may take place.

CL Jones, Colwinston

'Wasteful lights at roundabouts'

IWHOLEHEARTEDLY 100 per cent agree with your writer DN Norman's letter regarding the traffic lights on our roundabouts in Bridgend, and would support any motion to scrap them.

Perhaps a petition could be organised (which surely every motorist would support) to show the council how much dislike there is for these useless, wasteful, annoying traffic lights.

Mrs S Hunt, Bridgend

Do readers have a different view on the need for traffic control lights at roundabouts in the county borough? Write to us at the address below, or email: ggem@internet-today.co.uk.

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Write to us at:
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GRAIG HOUSE,
53 EASTGATE,
COWBRIDGE,
CF7 1EL
Tel: 01446 774484
or email us at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

WORK GOES ON AFTER MINES CLOSE

Coal industry charity can still offer help

RIGHT: CISWO representatives at the Talbot Institute were: Andrew Morse (regional manager); John Anderson (senior social worker); Aimee Hopkins (social inclusion officer) and Cerys Griffiths (social work assistant). (Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

THE mining industry in Wales may be a thing of the past, but a charity that has its roots firmly in the days when coal was king is still active and looking for good causes.

Recently, the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) sent staff along to an information day at the Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill, to raise the profile of the charity.

Kenfig Hill, of course, was a very big mining community with many deep shaft mines in the area. Today, there is one just big open cast mine still in operation.

More than 5,000 people benefit each year from the one-to-one services provided by CISWO's social workers, particularly older people and those most disadvantaged by ill health, disability or poverty.

Bridgend Rotary offers support to young carers



Rotary president, David Hubbard, presents the cheque to Caryl Jones of Bridgend Young Carers.

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend is supporting the 'Young Carers' charity this year.

President, David Hubbard, presented a cheque to organise Caryl Jones, who works for the charity Action for Children, and the money has been used for Young Carers Christmas parties.

More than 40 youngsters are currently being helped by the charity, and there is a large waiting list of children who cannot get on to the scheme.

Caryl told the club that the carers, some of whom are as young as seven, look after disabled parents and siblings, often doing iron-

ing, shopping and cooking.

The parties are arranged to give them a break from their family duties and meet other children who have similar family situations. The groups meet regularly throughout the year and are a vital part of the support for the children.

David Hubbard attended the Christmas parties and said he had met some amazing children, very polite, and mature beyond their years.

He said Caryl Jones and her team were worthy recipients of Rotary support, and he hoped people would recognise the valuable work the young carers do in the community.



clients' homes are arranged after referrals from a wide range of sources.

The aim of these social worker visits are income maximisation via state benefits, the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme and other sources of income.

Nowadays, through the network of Miners' Welfare Schemes, CISWO is developing a range of community services designed to meet the changing social and economic needs of mining communities.

These include regional convalescent facilities, and care breaks which support a broader range of quality of life initiatives.

CISWO can be contacted either by telephone on 01443 485233 or by post at: CISWO, Unit 5, Maritime Offices, Woodland Terrace, Pontypridd, CF37 1DZ, or via the website: www.ciswo.org.uk.

Chess Club looks to build on success

WELSH Knock Out Open Plate Winners, Under-1500 Cup Winners, East Glamorgan Division Three Champions – it's been a good year for Bridgend Chess Club, and the tables in the current East Glamorgan Chess League show continued success.

The Time Lords top Division One, The Jedi and Wraith are both placed second in divisions three and four, while the Borg and SG-1 also remain in the hunt for promotion from their respective divisions.

So, following all the festivities over the Christmas break, it's back to business this week. The Time Lords have a tricky trip to Caerphilly, a hurdle that is often difficult to jump.

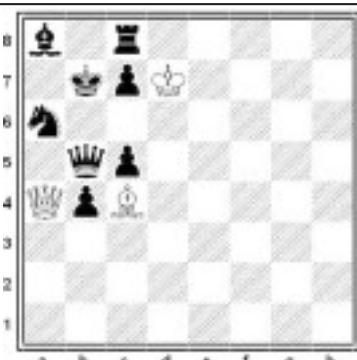
With the New Year, Bridgend Time Lords will have to match, if not better, their pre-Christmas record if they are to keep Cardiff Castles at bay, and win the East Glamorgan Chess League Division 1 Championship. Will they rise to the challenge?

ANDREW TRICKEY

Weekly chess puzzle

SOLVE the chess puzzle below and submit your entry. Each week, there is a free month's membership to Bridgend Chess Club up for grabs.

White to play - MATE IN THREE MOVES



Puzzle: BCC-009- entries to: The GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. Email entries to : andrew@bridgendchessclub.org.uk

Name
Answer To Puzzle

Email

Phone

Address

THE GEM - 17TH DECEMBER 2009

Answer: Puzzle BCC-007

1. Qxf1# 2. Kxf1 Re1# also
1.... Qxf1# 2. Kh2 Re1 leading to mate.

WINNER: KATIE TREHARNE.

Katie also wins the book prize for December, *Starting Out: Chess Tactics and Checkmates* by Chris Ward.

Welcome in the Valleys for DAB radio

OUTLYING households are now able to receive the new DAB radio service – including Radios 1,2,3,4, 5 Live, 6 and 7 – from the BBC.

Ogmore Labour Secretary Martin Hughes commented: "For too long, FM stereo reception in some parts of the Garw, Llynfi and Ogmore Valleys has been patchy, and people who have invested in new DAB radios have often been disappointed with the quality of service."

He said that Ogmore Labour started to make representations to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport at the beginning of 2009, followed up by Huw Irranca-Davies MP.

The BBC established a new transmitter service which covers the Bridgend Valleys and the area of Bridgend north of the M4 shortly before Christmas.

"The new service is a huge improvement. Although it is presently limited to BBC radio channels, there is scope for the commercial sector to provide additional choice, and I hope that the BBC will pull out all the stops to make Radio Wales and Radio Cymru available shortly."

He took up the post of Deputy Chief Constable for the force in April 2007.

Mr Vaughan said: "I started with the force in 1984 as a Police Constable on the beat in the Rhondda. Back then I was happy to serve my local community and

Lions charity book fair

BRIDGEND Lions are busy preparing for their 16th charity book fair at Bridgend YMCA on March 5-7.

From modest beginnings in 1995, the book fair has enjoyed steady growth and over the first 15 years raised in excess of £110,000 for local good causes.

"As always, we rely on the generosity of people in the Bridgend area who donate books on almost every subject under the sun."

"Donations can be handed in at YMCA, Angel Street, Bridgend (weekdays from 9am-5pm). Arrangements can be made for larger quantities to be collected by telephoning 01656 652244 or 0845 833 9582; or e-mail: bookfair@bridgendlions.org.uk" said Henry Trimlett, book fair committee chairman.

Read your GEM online at bridgendtoday.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

GARW VALLEY RAILWAY FESTIVE DRAW WINNERS



THE Garw Valley Railway would like to thank all those who supported the recent successful Christmas open afternoons at Pontycymmer shed and especially those who purchased tickets for our prize draw.

The draw took place on December 21 and the winners were:

1st prize: TV set, Julie Field, Porthcawl; 2nd: Christmas Hamper, Daniel Pencoed; 3rd: six bottles of spirit, Glyn Walters, Sarn; 4th: 12 bottles of wine, Mrs V Mitchison, Southampton; 5th: DVD Player, Glyn Walters, Sarn; 6th: 6 bottles of wine, Adrian Thomas, Rhondda; 7th: Bottle of House of Commons Whisky, M Gilbert, Maesteg.

A special thank you must go to Pen-y-Fai Brownies, who supported the event and will return to plant flowers and bulbs in the area during 2010.

NICK WEEDON

New Chief Constable takes over south Wales



being Chief Constable was the furthest thing in my mind.

"I am absolutely thrilled and delighted to be leading South Wales Police into the new decade. It is an excellent organisation and I think we can be capable of achieving even more."

"My commitment is to develop our work with the public and to raise the satisfaction and confidence people have in our Force."

"Our future success will not simply depend upon us improving our crime performance. Just as important will be the way people feel they have been treated by us and how well they feel we understand and address the issues that are most important to them."

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT – AND WHERE?

Mrs J Winkles – 9 Heol Fair, Porthcawl – erection of a timber shed measuring 4m x 5m in rear garden.

Siderise Insulation Ltd – Forge Industrial Estate, Maesteg – erect building to accommodate 110 dairy cows – replacing existing building – Aff F/P 62Cornelly.

Persimmon Homes East Wales Ltd – land at Park Derwen, Bridgend – approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 70 dwellings at site R21 and R22.

Mr C Eddy – Cefn Cribwr Farm, Farm Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend – stables at Cefn Cribwr Farm.

Penybont Gymnastics Ltd – Unit 2A Kingsway Buildings, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend – change of use of part of Unit 2B from industrial/warehousing to a commercial sports club.

Mr P and Mrs G Kinsey – 26 Abergarw Road, Brynmennyn, Bridgend – provision of 14 storage containers for self storage business.

Pontycymmer Bowls Club – Pontycymmer Bowls Club, Park Street, Pontycymmer – proposed extension, alterations, improvements and repairs.

Mr E Jones – 1 Pant Cottages, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin – refurbishment works

with ground and first floor extensions, R & M Louther & Sons – Ty Tanglwyst Farm, Pyle – erect timber-framed building to accommodate 110 dairy cows – replacing existing building – Aff F/P 62Cornelly.

Persimmon Homes East Wales Ltd – land at Park Derwen, Bridgend – approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 70 dwellings at site R21 and R22.

Colebrid Plant Ltd – Colebrid Plant Ltd, Abergarw Station, Brynmennyn, Bridgend – extension to outline planning consent.

Mrs G Healey – 48 Ger y Lyn, Porthcawl – first floor rear extension.

Mr B Kennedy – Ty Ni, 7 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend – double storey rear extension and front boundary wall.

Mr M Bradford – 7 Hong Kong Terrace, Bryncethin – double storey rear extension.

Mrs J Jones – 29 Heol y Groes, Pencoed – proposed two storey extension for kitchen and bedroom/en-suite and single storey summerhouse.

Turkey and tinsel break

SIXTEEN members of the Aberkenfig Retired Persons Club recently had their annual winter break; they took advantage of a special deal and had a coach trip with a 'Turkey and Tinsel' holiday in Weston-super-Mare.

On the way, they stopped at Clifton village, which is a lovely old fashioned seaside resort, and the following day the coach took members to the Christmas market in Wells.

The cathedral is spectacular, with the west front comprising more than 200 medieval sculptures, and the three towers which date from the 13th century. The famous 14th century clock still has the jousting horsemen, who emerge every quarter of an hour.

Vicars Close, which was built to house members of the clergy, with the houses still occupied today, is one of the oldest streets in England. The Bishops Palace, fortified in 1206 AD, has a moat where the swans are trained to ring the bell for food.

On the return journey to Wales, the coach stopped off at Bath, which is actually built on the mouth of an extinct volcano, the reason for the hot springs which supply the spa.

King Edgar, who reigned from AD 943 to 975, was crowned in Bath Abbey. Bath was home to the writer Jane Austen, also Gainsborough the artist.

Choir**schedule**

MEMBERS of Garw Valley male choir (Cor Meibion Cwm Garw) are considering a number of concert tours, with arrangements already in place for a weekend in Northampton to sing at the wedding reception of Lynne Appley and Barrie Dean on April 30. Barrie is the son of Dixie Dean, the choir secretary.

The Cross Inn
Cowbridge
01446 772995

Lunch & Dinner
January Special
3 Course meal £9.95

Bookings now
being taken for
Valentines Saturday
February 13th

We are easy to find, just travel to the west end of Cowbridge High Street and take the B4270 Llantwit Major Road and we are quarter of a mile on the left.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



On Saturday, May 1, the choir will be performing in a concert with the Northampton Male voice choir.

The choir will also be singing at the wedding of Anne Upton and Kevin Thomas in St Mary's church, Nolton, Bridgend on February 6.

The choir has had an increase in members of 12 new choristers over the last year or so.

It rehearses at Pontycymer rugby club on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7pm under musical director Bryan Young and accompanist Margaret Rich.

Visitors are welcome to all rehearsals.

School concert**BRYNMENYN**

Primary School's classes 3 and 4 held their Christmas concert and in line with tradition, the school choir sang a medley of seasonal songs while the audience was arriving.

The concert was based on Rock Around the Flock – a traditional story but not told in the usual way.

There were lots of large sheep and very dainty angels, and the special effects were definitely different.

There were some fine singers among this large cast of 58 children and how they rocked!

A duet sung by Mary and Joseph brought a tear to the eye and towards the end of the play, Mary and the Angels sang together – again with the same result.

As a finale, all the songs were sung again by the whole cast. The musical director, Jack

Thomas, also operated the DVD player.

The teachers who masterminded the production were Miss Probat, Mrs Lake, Mrs Turner and Mrs Allen. Mr David Jenkins, chair of governors, thanked teachers, children and parents for all their hard work on this exciting production.

Watch meets

THE next meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch is at Nantymoel Social Club on Wednesday, January 13 at 7pm, everyone is welcome.

Pen-y-Fai WI

THE women's institutes are grouped together in Links, and Pen-y-Fai is linked with Glyncorwg, Maesteg and Tir Larl; each section takes it in turn to put on entertainment for the other parts of the Link.

Pen-y-Fai recently arranged a carol concert at All Saints church, full of members from the different women's institutes, and the hymns and carols were sung with great gusto.

Unfortunately, the meeting of the Pen-y-Fai WI on Monday, December 21 had to be cancelled, due to the icy state of the pavements.

Aberkenfig**Bible Church**

MEMBERS of this church believe in serving the community and allow the premises to be used by local schools for their seasonal concerts, at no charge.

This also applies to the PACT, meetings which are held in the building every month.

The members hold a children's club for five to 10-year-old youngsters every Monday evening between 5pm-6.15pm. This club is completely free.

On the same evening, they hold a youth club for youngsters aged between 10 and 18 from 7pm-9.30pm. Here they can enjoy pool, table

tennis, badminton, arts and crafts, free of charge.

Members of the church also put on puppet shows at local infant schools, and at children's parties in their homes throughout the area.

The church is located in the old Lyric cinema, Pandy Road, Aberkenfig. The Pastor is John Kingdon.

Concert

I HAD the pleasure of attending the community carol concert at Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor.

Organised by Pastor James Brown with his wife Anne, and assisted by the members of Calfaria Baptist Church, the centre was packed with people from the Llangeinor area.

There were four different choirs taking part, all of whom had given their time and travelling for free.

The four choirs were: Garw Valley male, Garw ladies, Calfaria singers and Tynyrheol primary school, all of whom gave marvellous performances.

The first carol was sung by everyone, choirs and audience. This was followed by the ladies choir, which sang 'Sunrise, Sunset' and the 'Lord my Shepherd'.

Then came the Tynyrheol primary school, under the guidance of Keri Jones, deputy head at the school.

They sang 'Child in a manger born' and 'Midnight' with great confidence.

The male choir sang with 'Lawr ar Lan y Môr' and 'The Rose', which was written by Amanda McBroom and made famous by Bette Midler in the film of the same name in 1979.

The Calfaria singers sang the carol 'Many years ago' and the audience, together with the choirs, sang carols concluding with 'Silent Night'.

Council appeals for foster carers
BRIDGEND County Borough Council is appealing to residents to consider becoming a foster carer for children in its charge.

A spokesperson explained: "Children need to be fostered for many different reasons and the amount of time they are in foster care can vary."

"A child may need to be fostered on a respite basis or short term, or long term for the remainder of their childhood."

Bridgend Foster Care is looking for new carers for three different groups: younger children, older children/teenagers and sibling groups.

For more information about becoming a foster carer, call 01656 642349 or visit bridgend.gov.uk/fostering

EUNICE JONES, lately of Llandow, who died at the age of 84 shortly before Christmas, devoted her life to creative causes that benefited those people who lived around her, not least disadvantaged children in her role as Wales Regional Organiser for Action Research for the Crippled Child, now condensed to the shorter title Action Research.

She threw herself into the job with imaginative zeal, setting up some 30-40 fund-raising committees across the UK.

In so doing, the Wales region became one of the most dynamic in the whole of the Llangeinor area.

She did it by recruiting volunteers, mostly drawn from the mining industry, through contacts with the wives of managers, production managers, directors and colliery lodge officers, who were swept along by her enthusiasm to get involved in projects designed to help the

disadvantaged young.

For Eunice Jones, it became a mission that grew into a campaign endorsed by influential people in the health industry after her appointment as Principal Organiser for Wales.

Born in Cardiff in 1925 to an electrical engineer, Charles Piper, a New Zealander and his wife, Cissie, Eunice became intensely proud of her dual heritage inducing divided loyalties when Wales played the All Blacks.

Taught by several of the best tutors, she won numerous competitions as a talented young soprano, while earning a living as a commercial librarian.

Her musicianship was shared later with her husband, Raymond.

As soon as she was able, she joined the WRENS soon after the outbreak of WW2, an episode which was shrouded in secrecy for generations.

She worked as part of the code breakers deciphering U-boat

messages received in the basement quarters of The Admiralty where she and her colleagues worked diligently, 12 hours on and six off, in association with the top code-breakers at Bletchley Park.

Subsequently she met and married Raymond Jones, himself a talented singer, and supported him in his ambition to become a professional.

She sang with him on many occasions in Olivet to Calvary.

In her own right, Eunice Jones was much admired for her recitals of Elijah and St Paul by Mendelssohn.

On her return to Cardiff, she gave devoted support to her husband when for several years he became manager of the Welsh Commonwealth Games team, travelling to games in New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

Subsequently, she helped construct the 7th Cardiff Company of the Girls' Brigade, which grew to more than 100 and became one of the

Children's champion Eunice Jones**A gifted and gracious lady of many talents****OBITUARY**

disadvantaged young.

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She worked as part of the code breakers deciphering U-boat

strongest in Cardiff. In retirement she derived much comfort from her membership of the Guild of Friendship in Fairwater.

She worked for the NSPCC in Cardiff as a branch chairwoman before moving to Llandow where she was a member of the Community Council and the Village Hall committee.

In retirement, she became increasingly involved in the Mothers' Union and became enrolling member at Llandow and later at Rampton, where she moved following Raymond's death four years ago, to live close to her daughter, Felicity and family.

She is survived by Felicity and by her son, Timothy, together with six grandchildren. Eunice Jones was specially blessed with gifts and talents she shared among the community wherever she lived.

She made it a precept always to give more than she received.

MIKE MEREDITH

Bryngarw rangers join world record attempt

THE rangers at Bryngarw Country Park in Brynmelyn, Bridgend, organised a tree planting event recently to celebrate National Tree Week.

The UK's largest annual tree celebration, National Tree Week marks the start of the winter tree planting season each year and is a great chance for communities to do something positive for their local landscape.

The rangers joined forces with members of their volunteer programme to plant as many trees as possible in one hour, contributing to The Tree Council aim of creating a new world record.

After having initially pledged to plant 100 trees in the hour, Bryngarw's volunteer team excelled themselves, helping the rangers to plant more than four times that amount in poor weather and muddy conditions.

Ogmore AM Janice Gregory attended the event as the official witness, pronouncing the final count before presenting the volunteers and rangers with a certificate of participation.

She said: "This was the latest of many

excellent projects for Bryngarw Country Park.

It was great to see so many volunteers making such a magnificent effort."

Ranger Dan Lock explained: "Since the event took place it has been estimated that around 500,000 trees were planted across the country during the hour.

For us, this event was a real opportunity to promote the value of trees, woods and hedgerows."

For more information on becoming a volunteer or to learn more about the work of the ranger service, contact the rangers office on 01656 725155 or e-mail bryngarw@bridgend.gov.uk

Lanes hazard for cyclists

NOTED the recent letter by

Mr PJ Alexander on the B4270 Llantwit Major/Llandow road.

How right are Mr Alexander's comments regarding the difficulties faced by would-be cycle commuters wishing to use this road.

Also, his suggestion that cyclists should consider using the parallel lanes as a route to work is a sound idea.

However, there are two considerations. Firstly, the cyclists may be unaware of these lanes; but secondly and more importantly, is the state of these minor roads.

The lane to the east of the B4270 (Frampton

Lane?) is almost permanently flooded along one stretch to an extent that ensures wet feet for cyclists. (It is also well coated with puncture-inducing hedge cuttings).

The lane to the west (Morfa Lane) has become deeply pot-holed and nearly always deep in mud – hardly conducive to cycling.

This is a pity as it is an ideal cycle-commuting route. Perhaps the highways authorities could consider designating this as a cycle route, and ensure that it is kept in a usable condition – a faint hope I fear.

It would be a shame to wait until someone is hurt before taking any positive action.

P Bennion,

LOCAL STORE SUPPORTS RADIO STATION'S APPEAL



MORE than 800 Christmas presents were distributed after the Co-operative supermarket group joined forces with Bridge FM and HMP and YOI Parc.

Charities and organisations to benefit included Mental Health Matters and Y Bont, both of Bridgend; Ty Cornell young persons safe home, Porthcawl; Bridgend Women's Aid; Barnardo's Cymru Taiti Service; Bridgend County Borough Council social services department; Homestart; and Heronsbridge School.

There was also a special delivery of presents to the

children's ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Gary Chappell, the Co-op's local operations manager, said: "Every Christmas a group of Co-operative stores in the Bridgend area get together with Bridge FM and HMP and YOI Parc, to collect gifts for children who would not always get a present at Christmas,

"This year, we also involved a number of Somerfield stores. The Co-op stores involved were: Pyle, Brackla, Pencoed, Garden Village and Margam, plus Somerfield stores in Llantwit Major, Maesteg and Porthcawl."

ABOVE:
Included in the picture are: Bridge FM presenter Lee Jukes; ward staff in the Princess of Wales' children's ward with their gifts; Co-op staff in Christmas costume; Rob Cook (Pyle store manager), Gary Chappell, David Parker (head office) and Mark Roberts (regional manager).

Plans go on display

A FREE coffee morning will be held at the Wick Road play area and held for residents of the War Memorial of Ewenny and Corntown on Saturday, January 9, at the Ewenny pavilion and support, and Corntown to help the community council claim from 10.30am-12noon, when the necessary grant aid available to community council will put on display.

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Christmas highlighted armed forces' sacrifices

FOR our service-men in Afghanistan, brought up with warm memories of family Christmases, it was a particularly poignant time.

Instead of sitting down for a traditional lunch with loved-ones, they were carrying out their professional duties in a theatre of conflict. St Athan-based RAF instructor, Jamie Tutt, aged 25, personifies the sort of sacrifices people in the Armed Forces were making.

Jamie flew out to Afghanistan in October, leaving behind son Dylan, just one year of age, girlfriend Rebecca, and mum and dad, Katrina and Anthony.

Rebecca, aged 24, told The GEM: "Jamie's work involves survival equipment for Hercules' aircrews, instructing RAF recruits.

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

"Dylan's first birthday was on October 10, and Jamie flew out on October 6, so we had to move the baby's birthday party forward so Jamie could be there.

"On Christmas Day, the most important thing was Jamie's phone call. He emails us when he can, and phones once a week, but it is difficult to know when his call will come.

"I'll sometimes stay in for a whole day waiting for a call."

Jamie was due to return for five days on January 3, when the family belatedly exchanged Christmas presents.

Rebecca does have an understanding of the sacrifices that have to be made when a person joins the Services as she

was in the RAF herself. "Jamie and I met at RAF Lyneham four and a half years ago," she explained.

But what has hit Rebecca hardest is the small family things that Jamie has missed out on.

"He has missed out on Dylan moving from crawling to walking and saying things like 'mum' and 'dad' – although he said dad first!"

"He has missed huge leaps in Dylan's development – moments that will never be recaptured.

"People often forget that dads can miss their children, too!"

Rebecca lives in Treecynon and along with Dylan, regularly travels to see Jamie's parents in Blackwood.

Katrina, Jamie's mother, said: "Jamie joined the RAF at 16 – it was something he always wanted to do."



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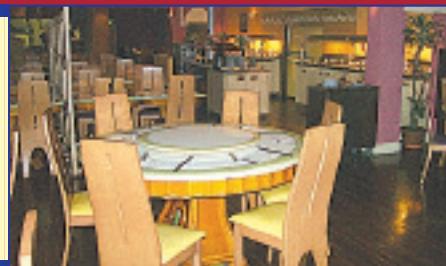
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Tree festival for the whole community at St Theodore's church

PHOTOS by
KEITH E
MORGAN

THERE was more to St Theodore's Church Christmas Tree Festival than simply the display of festive decorations.

The festival became a community event, including a school choir festival, and also an evening of seasonal entertainment, with readings and musical recitals.



ABOVE: of the Christmas trees display.



ABOVE: The Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger choir.



BELOW: Mynydd Cynffig pupils with their tree.



ABOVE: Madeleine Moon MP meeting the 'girls in the backroom'.



ABOVE: A soloist was Aled Williams of Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari.



ABOVE:
Warm welcome for the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Jeff Tildesley.



ABOVE: Local Scouts help Keith Morgan ring the church bells!



ABOVE: Rev Richard Spencer with a young guest and her mum.

Tory by-election candidate named

THE Conservative Party has chosen its candidate for the council by-election in Pendre Ward.

A vacancy has been declared on Bridgend County Borough Council caused by the resignation of Coun Mike Simmonds on health grounds. Mr Simmonds was a Liberal Democrat councillor.

The Troy candidate is Alan Wathan, a retired police officer, who lives in Litchard and sits on Coity Higher and Brackla Community councils. Polling is on Thursday, February 18.

Doubt on MoD college jobs?

I HAVE no association whatsoever with GEM letters correspondent Max Wallis, but I am hugely impressed with his analysis of local issues.

His assertion that WAG gives "all employment" for the St Athan Defence College project as 3,000 jobs throws big question on the figure of 5,000 in Mrs Alana Davies' election blurb received this week.

Perhaps she will clarify in The GEM, and (if appropriate) apologise! John Floyd, Tondu

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Lib-Dems insist that refuse plan was kept hidden

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Coun Green said that she was a huge fan of recycling but news that a kitchen waste recycling scheme is to be run borough-wide as part of the new contract has caused concern.

"We organised a pilot scheme for kitchen waste when we were in power. What has happened to information gleaned from that?"

"As far as I know, there has been no attempt to analyse the success or failure of this scheme – and I am very disappointed."

"The council should have made its decision based on how the pilot scheme was run. It may be that the whole thing was a complete disaster, which is why we have not seen any results. I simply do not know."

The press were only alerted to the change when a report on the new waste contract went to the scrutiny committee in Christmas week, outlining what was to happen.

This report stated that all the tender documents which went out to the rival bidders were for a fortnightly black bag collection, plus a weekly collection of food waste, collected in bins to be provided to householders.

There will also be weekly collections of recyclable materials, including a new plastic and can collection, plus the usual glass, paper and textiles.

Having kept the decision under wraps until now, the council intends to embark on a communication exercise to inform residents of the changes before they come into effect in June.

No figures about the cost of the new contract have been revealed and Coun Wayne Morgan, who sits on the scrutiny committee, said he had lodged a number of questions to do with the financial savings, as he was unhappy with the figures revealed.

He is unable to discuss these details, as the information was on confidential papers.

He said: "This is a huge contract worth many millions and it has been rushed through."

"It was discussed at three separate cabinet meetings – but each time in secret. In my view, some of the debate should have been in the public arena, where the press could report what was being proposed."

"Obviously, the confidential contract figures should still have been reported in secret, but details like scrapping the weekly collection should have been

up for discussion."

Mr Morgan said that it was now too late to challenge the decision because the new contract had been signed.

"The scrutiny committee has decided to carry out continuous monitoring of the contract as it comes into effect," he said. "We all felt that the procedure should have been better managed."

Mr Morgan said that a number of issues remained unresolved.

"I asked about people with young children using disposable nappies," he said. "Are they expected to keep black bags containing soiled nappies for two weeks in summer?"

"If there are two children in nappies, you are looking at up to 170 nappies accumulating in a fortnight. That poses a serious health risk."

He said that his fear was that people would not tolerate having these bags accumulating and there would be an increase in the number of black bags dumped around the borough.

"How much money will the council save if they have to send out gangs to pick up bags from every lane and country road? We also need to know how the food waste collection will operate."

"People may not be willing to have rotting foodstuffs hanging about in special bins in their kitchens."

Coun Cheryl Green said that the Liberal Democrat group would be discussing this decision and deciding what action to take.

"Yes, we are in favour of recycling, but we were also opposed to the scrapping of the weekly refuse collection," she said.

"This decision has been taken under the radar and many members including, I suspect, Labour councillors, will not be aware of what has been done."

"It is also likely to be hugely unpopular with residents. People will be asking what they are

paying council tax for if services are to be decreased. This is one of the few services that everyone uses. There has been a complete lack of transparency on this."

Conservative leader Pat Hacking said initially that her gut instinct was to oppose the change.

She said: "I was part of the Rainbow Alliance cabinet that fought the officers on this."

"Now, the Labour cabinet has given in. Many people have nowhere to store black bags and recycling bins – what about people living in flats?"

"How are they to manage?"

Coun Hacking said that the council had stated it would save £638,000 by these changes – but there would be a big increase in fly tipping in her view.

"This should have been discussed in proper debates and not dealt with in secret."

"The Conservative group will be discussing its reaction at our meeting next week."

However, she later contacted The GEM to state that further information had been made available at a meeting of the Town and Community Council forum, including plans to inform all councillors of what is to happen, and she was quite happy with these proposals.

Coun Ken Watts, Conservative member for Newton, said that he had no idea that this change was coming in.

He said: "I thought it was simply a new contract to provide the same service."

"It was never flagged up to back bench councillors. Many elderly people will have problems and I am opposed to the change."

"In England, some councils are reverting back to weekly collections because the fortnightly ones have been so unpopular and unworkable."

Council says that collections must change

(Continued from page 1)

Coun Nott said: "We have an excellent working relationship with officers and provide them with a strong lead on the direction we want the authority to be heading in."

"We are confident that this is the right decision in relation to recycling and waste management."

He insisted: "If any member had a concern about the cabinet's decision on November 3, then there was an opportunity for it to be called in, in keeping with council procedures."

"This opportunity was clearly communicated to all members on November 4. It think it is significant that this was not called in at the appropriate time, nor were any issues raised at the Community Renewal and Environment Scrutiny Committee on December 21."

"The unavoidable fact is that times are changing. The new proposals are the only way we are going to meet our statu-

tory requirements and hit the challenging waste and recycling targets set by the Welsh Assembly Government."

"We understand that some people may be concerned about the changes, but ultimately, what we do now to minimise waste and increase recycling will have a significant effect not only on our own lives, but also on the lives of future generations."

"These new procedures will also benefit local residents by saving money that can be reinvested into other important services."

Cabinet member John Spanswick said that the changes were among the biggest ever made to how waste is handled.

"We have consistently heard feedback from residents who want more recycling initiatives to be introduced."

"By recycling more items on a weekly basis, there will be less waste going into landfill bags, so general refuse can be collected every two weeks instead."

"The new procedures will also save money on landfill costs."

Ruth didn't forget the Poppy Appeal this Christmas!



ABOVE: Ruth Birch, chairman of the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion, was not in official Legion uniform on Christmas morning for the town's charity swim. In fact, her carefully-prepared combined Santa and Poppy Appeal costume was soon looking a little damp! (Photograph by Keith E Morgan). See more pictures of the Porthcawl swim on pages 20 and 21.

SHOUT will discuss latest collection cuts

MEMBERS of Porthcawl SHOUT will be discussing the changes to the refuse collection at their meeting tomorrow (Friday 8).

Spokesman Clive Mort said that members were concerned about the lack of consultation and Des Rees will be taking it up at the next meeting of Bridgend County SHOUT.

"Members will be very concerned to hear that the council has decided behind closed doors to reduce black bag collections to once a fortnight," said Mr Mort.

"We had heard that some discussions were taking place to reduce collections, and while we appreciate that some cuts in public services are inevitable in the present financial cli-

mate, SHOUT are disappointed and appalled that promised consultations prior to the decision do not appear to have taken place."

Mr Mort said that the meetings will be highlighting the problems older people may face with storage and handling of refuse.

"We will want assurances that these particular problems will be taken into account before this decision is implemented."

"Older people and those with disabilities are a special category and should receive greater consideration."

The big freeze hits Bridgend

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Bus services also managed to get to Betws, although the hill did pose problems.

Train services on the Maesteg line were running normally, although some delays took place.

A spokesman for the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg health board said that the icy conditions had sent A and E admissions through the roof.

Casualty departments throughout the area have seen high numbers of people coming through the doors.

Dr Kirsty Dixon-Jardine, who is the consultant in the Princess of Wales A and E department, urged people not to go out in these icy conditions unless absolutely necessary.

"We've seen a number of broken bones and injuries from falls," she said. "We are seeing people of all ages, not just the elderly."

Many of the injuries incurred are broken bones in the hand, wrist or ankle as a result of

slips and falls. Dougie Russell, clinical director for the Musculoskeletal Directorate, said that extra theatre sessions had been laid on to deal with the increased number of patients.

He said that there was a knock-on effect on the number of patients attending fracture clinics.

Longer term, there will be additional demand for physiotherapy when these fractures have healed.

But no outpatient clinics were cancelled in Bridgend, as all staff were able to get in.

However, Cardiff Airport was hit. Snow meant that the runways were closed until 2pm, but operations then were limited and there were delays.

South Wales Police said that it was "business as usual". Assistant Chief Constable Nick Croft said: "The heavy snowfall overnight has proved challenging for the force, but we are extremely proud of the commitment and dedication of our staff, who have gone to extra lengths to ensure it

remains business as usual.

"Our priority is to provide a 24/7 emergency service to the public and we are working hard to meet the additional demands placed upon us."

"We have also assisted colleagues from other emergency services this morning with officers transporting nurses to the University Hospital of Wales to help them maintain a service during these adverse conditions."

"As a force, we are continuing to prepare for the possibility of further bad weather overnight and are working closely with other emergency services and partners to ensure the safety of our communities."

"I would also urge those who have to travel to make use of main roads and avoid less used routes."

"Drivers should also allow extra time for their journey and ensure they allow an appropriate distance between them and the vehicle ahead," he warned.

Anysha could become Miss Teen Queen 2010

VALE teenager Anysha Panesar is to represent Wales at Miss Teen Queen 2010.

During the 21st birthday celebration of the Clothes Show Live held at the NEC in Birmingham just before Christmas, Anysha won a catwalk competition, which shortlisted her for the 'Miss Teen' event to be held later this year.

Last year, she came third out of 10,000 applicants.

Anysha, who lives in Llangan and attends St Clare's School in

Porthcawl, is to join Howell's sixth form college later this year.

She said: "I'm very proud to be representing Wales in the competition again this year."

Although Anysha has not decided what career path to take after leaving school, the catwalk seems a possibility – during the summer she went to Bloomingdale's, the top American department store in New York, to do some modelling.

Anysha, who lives in Llangan and attends St Clare's School in



Homes burgled in Bridgend

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating a spate of burglaries at houses in the western part of the town, which occurred overnight on January 5.

A number of houses were targeted on Maes y Grug, Llys Eglwys and Pant yr Hebog and the thieves stole a number of electronic items such as a lap top computer, I-Pods and mobile phones, as well as a car.

Detective Inspector Jason Redrup of Bridgend CID said: "The perpetrator will try a door to see if it has been locked and if they can get in, they can take some of your possessions and be away in a few moments, without you even knowing."

"A mobile phone, car keys, a computer game or laptop computer, anything that can be easily carried away have been among the items reported as stolen."

"A few minutes checking doors and windows just before bedtime can save a tremendous amount of heartache, expense and inconvenience."

"Anyone with information about the incident should contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Police probe raid attempt

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to an attempted robbery at the Filco Store in Hermon Road, Caerau.

The incident took place on Wednesday December 30, at about 5.55pm, when a man entered the shop but was unsuccessful and he then left, heading towards the rear lane running between the river and Bedw Street.

The man is described as being of stocky build and was wearing dark clothing, a baseball cap and a scarf covering his face.

An anyone with information about the incident should contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

THE DAY THAT THE SNOW CAME DOWN

AS THE GEM went to press, it looked as if Bridgend county borough had escaped the worst of the recent snowfalls that have disrupted other areas of Wales and the UK.

In fact,, when GEM photographer went out and about on a snowy day, the area had a real 'Christmas card' look about it.

There was even a Robin Red-Breast!



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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*Now situated at the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



BELOW:
Cowbridge's Physic Garden was picturesque after a light snowfall.



A New Year message from First Minister Carwyn Jones (AM for Bridgend)

THE New Year is a time for looking ahead, and this is a momentous time for me as Wales' new First Minister.

I am very proud to have this opportunity to serve the people of Wales by leading the Welsh Assembly Government.

In 2009 we faced tough economic challenges, but our core values of social justice have served us well.

I was brought up to respect the idea of chwarae teg, fair play – and now we are able to ensure Wales' strong sense of social responsibility and justice guide our young democracy.

By working together in that spirit we are weathering the storm, and during the coming year we will continue the task of building the economy we need to ensure prosperity for all.

Neges y Prif Weinidog Carwyn Jones AC ar gyfer y Flwyddyn Newydd

Mae'r Flwyddyn Newydd yn gyfle i edrych at y dyfodol, ac mae hwn yn gyfnewyd i wophys imi fel Prif Weinidog newydd Cymru.

Rwy'n falch iawn o gael y cyfle hwn i wasanaethu pobl Cymru drwy arwain Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Roedd 2009 yn gyfnewyd i edrych i ddilysu'r hirfol inni, ond roedd ein gwerthoedd craidd o gyflawdwr cymdeithasol o werth mawr inni. Cefais fy magu i barchu'r cynsiod o chwarae teg, a bellach gallwn sicrhau fod ymwybyddiaeth gref Cymru o gyfrifoldeb cymdeithasol a chyflawniwr yn arwain ein democraethiaeth ifanc.

Drwy gydweithio yn yr ysbryd hwnnw, rydym yn dod drwy'r trafferthion, a thros y flwyddyn i dddob y bawd yn parhau â'r dasg o feithrin yr economi sydd ei hangen i sicrhau ffiniant i bawb.

Rwy'n sicr fy man bod llwyddiant yn dibynnu ar addysg a

I am convinced that the key to success depends on the education and skills of our people. I am proud that the Welsh Assembly Government has doubled the number of apprenticeships in the course of the last decade – and despite all the pressures on our budget, we are determined to strengthen still further the valuable work of our schools, colleges and universities.

The recent Copenhagen conference underlined once more the great dangers posed by climate change. Wales will do all it can to support an international response – but the crisis also means opportunities.

Our goal is for Wales to lead the way in developing new technologies to tackle global warming, and in the process lay the foundations of a resilient and sustainable 21st century economy.

One lesson of the last year is that devolved government works well. Our Economic Summit meetings have enabled all social partners to pull together – and one benefit of devolution is that we can move rapidly. New ideas such as ProAct have been pushed through in record time and our Mortgage Rescue scheme has been described by the BBC as 'top in the UK'.

The existence of a Welsh government has strengthened our voice in Europe and our confidence and spirit as a nation have come on by leaps and bounds.

2010 will see us looking to gain more powers for the Assembly to use for the benefit of the people of Wales.

I would like to wish all of you a very happy and successful New Year.

**Carwyn Jones,
First Minister**

'Replace bridge', call to council

A PLAID Cymru-led petition in Dinas Powys is calling on the Vale Council to replace Cross Common Bridge.

"Dinas Powys councillors felt they had to start a petition to ensure the council takes the issue seriously," said Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks.

"For more than five years we have been campaigning for the Vale Council to replace the Cross Common Road bridge near Hebron Hall, over the stream leading to the main road.

"This vital bridge is now in such a poor state that it is being propped up by timber beams. This in itself is adding to the flooding risks.

"The Vale Council has failed to properly

consider the implications should this bridge deteriorate further.

"This is one of only two direct road connections between the north and south half of Dinas Powys, the other being Murch Bridge. The structure is also on a bus route.

"We are calling on the Vale Council to allocate adequate funds to replace the bridge as a matter of urgency," he concluded.

Miles Punter, head of visible services, said: "The possible replacement of Cross Common bridge, due to a reduction in its structural capacity, is one of many schemes being considered by the council as part of the capital programme for 2010/11.

"A final decision on the programme will be taken by the council in March 2010."

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Part of the service includes customers offering their own designs and to view the bed being made. In fact any visit to the showroom will be accompanied by the sound of the beds being built next door. Go along for a visit and see for yourself what makes this local company such a unique experience.

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Entrance to the Schools is selective but great care is taken to assess children on a wide range of abilities and to look for potential not just test performance. The Admissions Secretaries are happy to send sample papers and to guide each family through the entrance procedure. For more information on assessments for entry to the Schools in 2010/11 or to arrange a visit, please go to www.habs-monmouth.org or call Mrs Diane Jakes on **01600 710433** for Monmouth School, boys aged 7 to 18, or call Mrs Gloria Sheppard on **01600 711104** for Haberdashers' Monmouth school for Girls aged 7 to 18.



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"The Switchover Help Scheme made switching to digital TV easy for me"

Jean is one of thousands of people being helped with the big digital TV switchover.

"It was bothering me - all this talk about 'digital'. I didn't know what it meant. All I want to be able to do is switch on my TV and watch it. It's like the supermarkets, you just get to know where things are and then they change it!"

Switchover starts soon

The digital switchover in parts of Cardiff, Newport and south-east Wales will start to switch on **3 March 2010**. Everyone needs to be ready to make sure they can keep watching their TV.

Who can get help?

If you're 75 or over, have lived in a care home for six months or more, get (or could get) certain disability allowances or are registered blind or partially sighted, the Help Scheme can convert one of your TVs to digital.



"I was wondering what to do, then the Help Scheme sent me an information pack - it turned up in the post - I didn't have to ask for it - and it said that for £40 they'd sort it out. A nice chap came round and set it all up and showed me exactly how to use it which was all included; there were no hidden costs. I get more channels too, so for once, it's a change for the better!" This service is free if you get pension credit, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.



Jean's neighbour already had a digital TV, but was still able to use the Help Scheme to convert another set: "Peggy's TV in her living room already had more than five channels so was already digital. The Help Scheme switched her second TV in her bedroom so that would keep on working after the switchover too."

The Help Scheme promise

The Switchover Help Scheme promises to deliver high standards of quality and care to everyone taking up the offer. You can choose an appointment time that suits you and can ask for a family member, friend or carer to be there when equipment is delivered or installed. We'll make sure you are happy with how it all works and give a number to call whilst you're getting used to things.



Give a helping hand

If you know someone who might be eligible, please tell them about the Help Scheme – you might be the only one who does.



For more information

Everyone who is eligible for the Help Scheme should have received an information pack. If your pack hasn't arrived, or if you'd like more information, call the Help Scheme free on **0800 40 85 900** (call rates from mobiles may vary) or visit helpscheme.co.uk



If you have any questions, why not come along to one of our road shows? To find out when one will be in your area, visit digitaluk.co.uk/wales or call **08456 50 50 50**.



Jean is a fictitious character based on real customers who have expressed similar views.

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC

Wiesenthal film will be premiered in Vale on Holocaust Memorial Day

THE Vale Council will be hosting a film premiere that commemorates the millions slaughtered in the Nazi Holocaust during World War 2.

As part of a series of special events for Holocaust Memorial Day 2010, the Vale Council will host the UK

Student designs AM's card

VALE AM Jane Hutt invited students from Barry College Art Department to design a festive card for her to send out to her constituents and organisations in the Vale.

Four designs were shortlisted, with the assistance of artist Eileen Allen and Barry Citizens Action Group's Dilys Colbourne.

Jane Hutt later invited the shortlisted students, along with their lecturers, to a tour of the Senedd.

premiere of *Against the Tide*. Narrated by Dustin Hoffman, and produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, the film tells the story of what happened in America during the Holocaust, and examines the US administration and state department, who used the pretext of winning the war against the Nazis to block any Jewish immigration to the Vale.

A public showing will take place on January 28 at 12.30pm at the Memorial Hall Theatre, Barry, and tickets will cost £2.50 per person.

Rabbi Mayer May, director of the centre, and Aaron Hier, director of the campus outreach centre, will be flying in from Los Angeles to present the film to guests.

A private viewing will also take place on Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27, followed by a screening for invited local schools.

The theme of this year's commemorations is 'Legacy of Hope' and, between this Saturday (January 9) and January 30, Art Central, the council's gallery and art space, will be the venue for a wide range of activities.

Conflict and war artist and UK 2009 Artist Mundi prize nominee Nicola Tucker, will be artist in residence at the gallery, creating special Holocaust-related art.

There will also be an exhibition of work created by Vale school pupils who have taken part in workshops with Nicola.

Entries to the annual Race Equality First inter-school children's calendar art competition will also be on show, along with 'Am I my brother's keeper? Rescue in the Holocaust', an exhibition from the Jewish Museum in London.

There will be a chance to see Xeniya Simonova, the Ukraine's renowned sand artist, on film creating her spectacular sand art titled 'You are always near us' and the wonderful animated short film, *The Piano*, by VFX artist Aidan Gibbons.

Cabinet member for tourism and leisure,

Coun Anthony Ernest, said: "We very much welcome the unique opportunity to premiere this major film in the UK, and it gives us great pleasure to welcome

leading international figures from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre to the Vale.

"I would like to commend the wide programme of events on offer to residents and visitors to Art Central and hope that they will join with us in commemorating this significant day."

Art Central is based at the Town Hall, Barry, and is open on Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm. Entry is free.

Tickets for 'Against the Tide' are available from the Barry Memorial Hall box office, by telephoning 01446 738622.

For more information visit the Art Central pages at www.vale.ofglamorgan.gov.uk/enjoy

You may send your news items to Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, or email them to the Editorial Department at:

ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Speaker tells of Uganda, before and after Idi Amin

ROGER DAVIES, our speaker, began his love affair with Uganda back in the 1960s.

His talk showed his deep knowledge of a country that, after much strife, including the rule of Idi Amin, now seems to be at peace with itself.

However, he did recall sitting with the local district commissioner watching satellite television on one occasion, when that gentleman suggested using the shelter and safety of a pillar for their viewing – in case an assassination attempt should be made on his life!

The northern area, where Roger was based, had been involved in an internal war for some 20 years and this ended only two years ago.

This was a period when youngsters, some of them pre-teens, had been forced to fight in the conflict.

At the end of hostilities, they were re-habilitated mentally and physically, but were often not welcomed back into their home villages.

The Uganda described by Mr Davies is a beautiful country famed for its wild-life on mountain ranges.

If the rains are reli-

REPORT FROM BARRY MEN'S FORUM

able, two crops a year can provide an abundant harvest.

In recent times, Roger volunteered to assist a group of local youths from Wales, who were involved in building-up one of the village schools in the northern territory.

Conditions were ini-

tially, so primitive that there were few seats for the pupils, who ranged from seven to 17.

When our speaker's mission was completed, not only had the school building been completed and chairs made, but an excellent library had been created.

Mr Davies finished his talk by showing a detailed film of the school being opened by the Ugandan minister of education, and of him receiving an award for his efforts amid great celebrations.

Meetings are held every Thursday at 10.30am. For further information, telephone 029 2059 4881.

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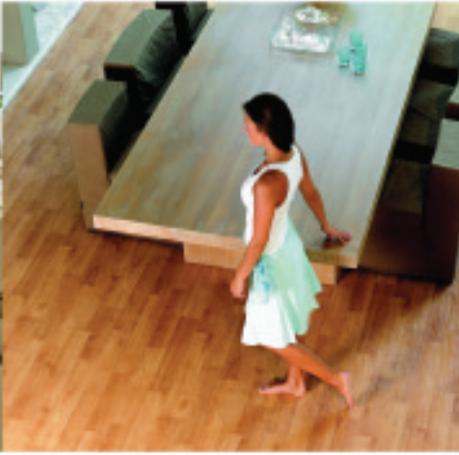
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College celebrates rich diversity of Wales with multi-cultural events

BARRY College has celebrated the cultural diversity of Wales with seven days of multicultural events.

Rita Limbrick, of Rita's Multicultural Community Café on Main Street, Barry, visited the college to present the hospitality and catering department with copies of her cook-book.

"The idea of the book came out of my teaching and doing cooking demonstrations at the YMCA and in schools," Rita said. "It was prompted by the Sudan Appeal and since then it has raised hundreds and



thousands of pounds for children all over the world."

"It's a very educational book and the recipes are also very healthy with hardly any

fat!" Rita, who is heavily involved in voluntary work with organisations in Barry and the rest of the Vale, was awarded Barry Citizen of the Year in 2002 and Community Safety Volunteer of the Year in 2007.

She set up the community centre and multi-cultural café as a non-profit business to bring people of all cultures together and serve the local community.

All ages took part in multicultural week, with the toddlers who attend the college's childcare centre and crèche enjoying a special 'children of the world' day'.

They wore traditional costumes from all over the world including

ABOVE:
Rita Limbrick with hospitality lecturer Joyce Harvey and Welsh Bac learners.

cowboys, cowgirls and cheerleader outfits, Japanese kimonos, Spanish and French costumes, Welsh ladies and rugby players, and Hawaiian grass skirts.

Other events involved a team from Show Racism the Red Card, which, included former Cardiff player Christian Roberts, visiting the college's football team, the FEDS.

After a discussion session on issues surrounding Islamophobia, the Show Racism the Red Card boys played football with the FEDS.

For further information, contact programme secretary, Jan Gray, on 01446 701273.

News in brief

Valeways walks
RHOOSE and Fontygary, on Friday, January 8 at 10.30am, starting at Rhoose Railway Station.

On Tuesday, January 12 at 1.30pm, Cold Knap and Old Harbour, starting outside the café just under the bridge, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Wednesday, January 13 at 1.30pm, Sigingstone to Factory Brook, starting at Victoria Inn, Sigingstone.

Acrylics demo
COWBRIDGE Art Society meets on Thursday, January 14 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when local artist Sue McDonagh will give a demonstration in acrylics.

Non-members are welcome to attend.

Brunel's work in south Wales

THE Dinas Powys Local History Society will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday, January 12 in the Kynance Church Hall, on the edge of Dinas Powys Common, at 7.30pm.

Stephen Jones will give the talk and show slides on 'Brunel in south Wales'.

All are welcome to attend and an administrative charge will be made at the door to cover running expenses.

The inquest heard that unmarried Fflur was fit and healthy and enjoyed skiing, played touch

Popular teacher fell under bus, inquest is told

A POPULAR Barry teacher was killed when she slipped into the path of a bus, an inquest heard yesterday (Wednesday).

RE teacher Fflur Bedwyr (34) slipped on a pavement, to fall in front of the 55ft long bus in a freak accident. The inquest heard she went headfirst under the bus travelling at 15 miles per hour on a busy street.

Bus driver Colin Havard said: "All of a sudden, there was a bang and the young lady had come off the road."

"One of the passengers shouted out 'she's been hit'."

Mr Havard stopped the bus and called emergency services to the busy road in Canton, Cardiff, but the inquest heard Fflur died at the roadside from severe head and chest injuries.

Motorist Kenneth Giles, driving behind the bus, said: "If I was driving the bus, I don't think it would have been any different. I don't see how he could have missed her."

The inquest heard that unmarried Fflur was fit and healthy and enjoyed skiing, played touch



ABOVE:
Fflur Bedwyr.

Cardiff, was head of year-9 at Welsh medium comprehensive Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

Two days after her death, around 250 upset teenagers took time out from their summer holidays to pay tribute to their favourite teacher.

The impromptu memorial service was held with Fflur's mother and sister joining the saddened pupils and staff.

At the time, sixth-former Vicki Williams (18) said: "She was a teacher everyone liked – she put everyone before herself and would go out of her way to help us."

"She won the favourite teacher award at our end-of-year prom – I was devastated when I found out what happened."

Verdict: Accidental death.

Outreach surgery

THE Vale Volunteer Bureau will host an outreach surgery at Penarth Library on January 12 from 2pm-4pm to offer advice and information about volunteering and the 700+ opportunities locally.

Barnardo's Community Links will also be on board to talk about befriending and supporting disabled children and their families.

For further information, contact Joe on (01446) 421782, or visit www.vvb.org.uk.



Eat... Drink... and be Merry... the formula for success at THE HARE & HOUNDS ABERTHIN

LOCAL business proprietor Jeff Gladwin, in partnership with Kevin Cooper (a former professional sportsman) and their wives, Linda and Emma, embarked upon their new business venture in May, 2009. Together with manager Richard Phelps, (daughter) Victoria Gladwin and barman John White, this family-run partnership has regained its niche as a popular Vale hostelry.

Their wealth of experience in the hotel and catering trade means high standards with locally sourced produce being a priority.

A warm northern welcome is assured and can only be matched by the encouragement and support they have received from their 'new' regulars.

Priority was to emphasise the capacity of their restaurant facilities – now completely refurbished and gaining very favourable reviews, having appointed popular Vale chef Rachid Azouz (formerly of Farthing's Bistro and Wine Bar, Cowbridge), the latest addition to this winning team.

Regular customers are proving to be more adventurous with the real ale selection: Master's Pedigree, Oxford Gold, Burton's Bitter and regular guest ales, which are converting the 'regular tippler' clientele. This is further complimented by their fine wine selection.

Live entertainment is scheduled for alternate Saturdays throughout the year, attracting quality musicians with a staunch fan base.

Having enjoyed an exceptionally joyous festive season, highlighted by their New Year's Eve piper and firework finale, Jeff, Kevin and the team extend thanks and best wishes to all of their customers and invite you to experience Rachid's culinary delights together with the charm and ambience of their popular local soon ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Food served Wednesday - Friday 12 noon - 2.30pm & 5 - 9pm; Saturday 12 noon - 9pm
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Main Course £7.95

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VALENTINE'S DAY

Sunday 14th February

Sunday Roast 12.00 noon - 4pm

SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DINNER

Served 5pm - 9pm

Free Wi Fi
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Party Bookings Welcome

Local motorist charged £670 for spilled petrol!

A local motorist who spilled petrol when he filled up at a supermarket, was sent a bill for £670 – to clean it up.

Driver Ron Wyde (69) was buying four-star at Morrison's store in Barry, when a pipe on

his petrol tank came loose. Two litres of petrol spilled out and Mr Ryde explained the leak when he paid at the kiosk.

He waited as the fire service arrived for a quick clean-up operation at the filling station, but a week later, was

shocked to receive a letter from Morrison's demanding £670 – and a warning they would send bailiffs round if he didn't pay-up.

The letter explained they had sent two service engineers from Wigan, Lancashire, to make sure the petrol sta-

tion was safe; and the bill stated they spent six hours travelling the 440-mile round trip to Barry for the job – which took just 40 minutes using a jet wash.

Retired pipefitter Ron said: "It would be laughable if it wasn't such a big bill. It was a small amount of petrol – about two quids' worth. The fire service had cleaned it up in minutes and they didn't charge for that."

"I was amazed to get such a huge bill – it was a complete surprise. I was being asked to pay for someone to drive all the way from the north of England to deal with a small amount of petrol which had already been cleaned up."

Grandfather Ron had just dropped wife Maureen at bingo when he pulled into

Morrison's to put a splash of petrol into the tank of his Vauxhall Astra; but the £670 he was hit with came to more than his total petrol bill for an entire year.

He said: "I told Morrison's I was not paying, but they threatened me with recovery agents. I thought they were behaving like bullies – I'm sorry I accidentally spilled petrol,

Oops...Another customer who needs ChipsAway!

EVERY minute, somewhere becomes another potential customer for Martin Williams, the Bridgend-based operator for ChipsAway International, the leading 'on-the-spot' automotive paint repair specialists.

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panels treated simply to remove a small scratch or chip to their paintwork.

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but I paid for it and the fire service cleaned it up."

Mr Ryde put the matter in the hands of his solicitors and Morrison's backed down.

A spokesman said: "It was a specialist service and had to be carried out by an approved company. However, it was an error to charge the customer for the full amount.

"We would like to apologise to Mr Wyde and as a result will cancel all charges to him."

Radio station 'inundated' with Christmas presents

After a successful inundation.

"It has been a heart-warming experience for us all at BRO Radio and the staff and customers we look forward to at Tesco for their help Operation Christmas and generosity.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank us all at BRO Radio and the staff and customers we look forward to at Tesco for their help Operation Christmas and generosity.

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Llangan school pupils show their designer skills with a Christmas hat fashion show!

THE PUPILS at Llangan Primary School really let their imagination run wild when they were asked to design their own Christmas hat just before breaking up last term.

There were some amazing creations on display, featuring snowmen, chimney stacks, Christmas trees, holly and tinsel – all part of the build-up to Christmas!

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
*(Available for purchase,
telephone 07974 518347)*
**These and other pictures of
the event can be viewed on
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk**



This Sherlock Holmes makes an indelible mark on the big screen

MUCH like Johnny Depp, it seems that Robert Downey Jr was only ever a blockbuster hit away from taking his rightful place at the top of the acting table.

Having shown tantalising glimpses of his talent in the likes of *Chaplin*, Downey Jr spent most of the remainder of the 90s and noughties under the influence of various substances (while making the odd film in his spare time) before being given the lead in *Shane Black's* exceptional *Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang*.

It was his performance here that highlighted just how prodigious an actor he could be, and when it was announced he would be filling the metal suit of *Iron Man*, a worldwide take of \$585million set up the actor in a position he had seemed so close to

Trefoil Guild

THE Llanwit Major Trefoil Guild annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 7.30pm in the Guide Hut.

Anyone who is interested in supporting Guiding is welcome to come along.

never fulfilling.

Having taken on one iconic role with *Iron Man*, he switches tack to another in Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes*.

Downey Jr plays the titular detective, who, having solved a murder mystery by catching Lord Blackwood (Mark Strong), falls into a deep funk as Watson's impending engagement to Mary (Kelly Reilly) means the end of their partnership.

However,

when Blackwood seemingly rises from the grave and warns Holmes of his

plans to take over first Britain and then the world, the pair reunite to stop him; a job made even more complicated by the reappearance of Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams), whose past with Holmes makes her an intriguing proposition...

Given Hollywood's taste for anything of a literary bent, it is no surprise that *Sherlock Holmes* has once again made his way onto the big screen, given both the renown the character holds and the depth of source material on offer.

The decision to put this biggest of Holmes adaptations in the hands of Guy Ritchie, an accomplished yet far lower budget director,

and the casting of Robert Downey Jr as the detective, meant that eyes were very much on this film. Yet for all the bluster, the resulting piece of work is hugely entertaining, positioning it as both a faithful transition yet being given a pleasing dash of modern sensibility.

Much of the credit should be given to Ritchie, who gets right inside a London on the cusp of technological revolution.

There's a basic framework of Tower Bridge visible, which makes for a delightful final showdown location should you need one, but this isn't a film concerned with making in-jokes and references about the future. Instead, Ritchie's camera weaves its way through the grubby and grimy streets of the city, capturing excellently the feel of the time.

He also reigns in his more gregarious tics, with very few slow-motion shots or whip-fast edits.

Ritchie allows the performances and the excellent sets to do the work for him, while imbuing the action sequences with a sense of derring-do and panache.

It is an assured showing from the director,

who proves that he is more than comfortable on the bigger stage, giving the film pace.

He also draws excellent turns from both Downey Jr and Law, whose easy chemistry and Victorian *Odd Couple*-esque bickering makes the scenes featuring the two of them a delight, with the former maintaining his red-hot form with another sensational turn.

Capturing Holmes' personality traits to a tee, Downey Jr takes Conan-Doyle's character and brings him to life, blowing away the stuffiness of other screen incarnations and giving him a charismatic and humorous edge.

With a bohemian twist, this version of Holmes is prone to the odd bare-knuckle boxing match, and flights of reckless fancy, made all the more vivid by Downey Jr's overt charisma.

Law does a similarly good job as Watson, making him an equal of Holmes' rather than the sidekick, and coupled with a screenplay that gives the character depth, produces a turn that while not as showy as Downey Jr's, is still as important.

With the always-dependable Mark Strong

giving a good turn, if a touch understated, as the film's villain, with the black arts-infatuated Blackwood offering a supernatural twist,

Rachel McAdams ensures a clean sweep of strong performances as the gutsy Adler.

Offering a different dimension to the relationships on show, her turn is lively, sparkling the wonderfully well with Downey Jr.

Adapting various aspects of Conan-Doyle's work, screen-writers Michael Robert Johnson, Anthony Peckham and Simon Kinberg do a very good job, not only by establishing the universe of Holmes, but by the way they integrate this into the fabric of the narrative.

This avoids the pitfalls of many 'origin' films that are more concerned with setting up characters than servicing those characters with a captivating story.

There is the odd misstep on the way, with some of the film's computer effects looking ever so slightly suspicious, particularly in this post-Avatar world, while the actual story, as engaging as it is, tends to fall into genre predictability come the climax.

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

However, by setting up further instalments, with the ending hinting at the larger evil, the overriding sense of *Sherlock Holmes* is that of a job done with style – making for a highly pleasing viewing experience.

VERDICT – A thorough success, *Sherlock Holmes* is a thrilling film that is enthralling from start to finish.

With a raft of superb performances, and Guy Ritchie's highly pleasing transition to bigger budget fare handled superbly, this is a piece of work that will hopefully set up further instalments for the world's greatest detective.

Highly recommended.

'Make most of Gavin and Stacey effect'

DR IAN JOHNSON, the Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, has said that the success of the final series of *Gavin and Stacey* must now act as a catalyst for tourism development in Barry – the last episode was shown on New Year's Day.

Dr Johnson said: "More than nine million viewers watched *Gavin and Stacey* on Christmas Day on BBC 1, making it the fourth most watched programme of the day with nearly one in six people in the UK tuning in."

"They saw an episode that highlighted Barry's tourist attractions – our wonderful sandy beach and the fairground. "We must make sure that the opportunities offered promote Barry aren't wasted."

"Over Christmas and the New Year, I spoke to traders on the Island about the 'Gavin and Stacey effect' and how people travelled from Cardiff or much further afield to see the locations where the show is filmed.

"They welcomed the extra trade that the series brings in, throughout the year, but are disappointed that the connections haven't been better exploited."

He added: "Gavin and Stacey show the massive tourism advantages that Barry Island holds over many other places, but we must make it count if we are to re-invigorate the Island and create a large number of long-term jobs in Barry."

"It would be highly disappointing if the council failed to make the most of this."

Save driving centre!

WOULD be grateful if, through your newspaper, I could urge your readers in the Vale to sign the on-line petition to save Barry Driving Test Centre.

The centre is due to close on March 26, leading to people having to take their tests in Bridgend or Cardiff.

Local driving instructors hope to get 500 names backing a petition which demands that the test centre should not be closed.

I would ask people to support this vital service for the town, and for the Vale, by going to the link at <http://sarebad.petitions.net/>

Alana Davies (Labour parliamentary candidate, Vale of Glamorgan)

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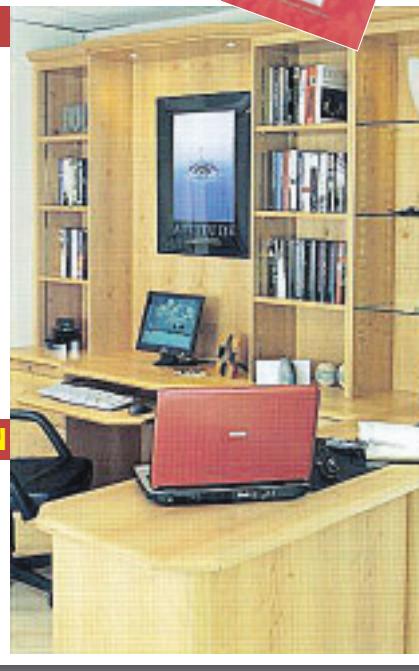
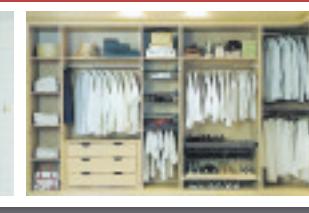
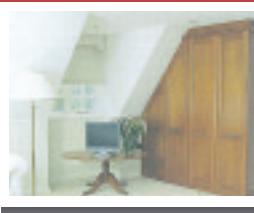


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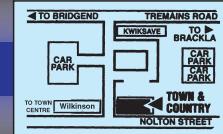
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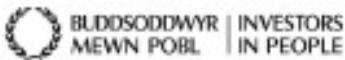
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HYSBYSIR DWYI HYNI bod Gwiriaidigion Cymru yn bennaci gweud Gorchymyn o dan Adran 24B o Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 ac Adran 125 o ddeddf Prifyrdd 1980 i awdurdodi gwyrdd ian o brifordd a ddolgofir yn Adran 1 i'r Hysbysiad hwn; awdurdodi cau a mynedfeidd prifat a ddolgofir yn Adran 2 i'r Hysbysiad hwn; darparu ar gyfer y rhain newydd o brifordd a ddolgofir yn Adran 3 i'r Hysbysiad hwn; darparu ar gyfer mynedfa bresat newydd a ddolgofir yn Adran 4 i'r Hysbysiad hwn a gwellt i'r han o brifordd a ddolgofir yn Adran 5 i'r Hysbysiad hwn.

Os gwerth y Gorchymyn, nid awdurdodir gwyrdd o brifordd ac ethinol ar gyfer galuogi gweud y datblygiad a ddolgofir yn Adran 6 i'r Hysbysiad hwn. Mae'r Gorchymyn hefyd yn darparu i'r clam newydd o brifordd a ddolgofir yn Adran 3 i'r Hysbysiad hwn; a'i brifordd wedi ei gwellta, a ddolgofir yn Adran 5 i'r Hysbysiad hwn, dded ym blyffodol ystafell o'u casle ar ddisu a cyhoeddi. Rydd y Gorchymyn yn pedieù bœd yn effeithiol os daw'r caniatâd cynllunio i ben na si os dlynni y caniatâd cynllunio.

Yn ystod y 28 diwrnod o 7 Ionawr 2010 ynllawn, galli ardwiliau copiau o'r Gorchymyn drwy hysbysiau Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Trifolfaeth a'r Arddulliaeth a'r Adolygu Strategol, Y Gangen Gorchymwyn, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NQ. Os ydych chi'n dynameg gwrthwystyr, oheg i neu gwrthwystyr sylwadau, lloynach y bydd amon amgen jangynnogaeth i phobi a sefydladau y tu allan i Llywodraeth Cymru. Yn rhian o'r brosi a yngynnogaeth yr eidal wrth ysbodau'r ydychyd ariw i'r rhoi i ni, a ch'w daeth y personol ac ethinol pan fo hefyd ym anganhelodol i'n galuogi i ddella'r matmor a ydychyd wedi tyrru'n un o'r albenau. Os yw Gorchymyn Gwyro y mynd yn distan Ymchwiliad Cybeddau (YCY), bydd pob gohebiaeth yn cael ei chwilio i'w anghywedd ymchwil ac yn cael ei chwilio wedyn ym i'w ydigrifol YC, le y bydd ar gael i'r cyhoeddi.

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YR ATODLENNI

Rhannau o brifordd i'r gogledd o'i eiddo a chuir "Seaview" yn Sain Tathan ym Mro Morgannwg.

Bler amcan ym bob mesutad)

ATODLEN 1

Degriath o'r rhain o brifordd sydd i'w gweyo a dan y Gorchymyn hwn.

Rhan arofaloedd ei siap o brifordd ddeiniwr rhwng Ffordd Llanllidiad a'r B4265 sydd 31 hufen a mwyaf yn 114 metr a'i leu a'r mwyaf yn 5 metr a ddangosir a linellau rhesgig du a gwynn ar y plan a adnewydd.

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i. Mynedfa breifat i dir amserthiaddol i'r daf o'r rheilffordd (A.O. 3199), a leoli yng nghornel ogledd-orllewinol croesffordd y Ffordd ddeledusdarth rhwng Ffordd Llanllidiad a'r B4265 brassennol, sy'n ymestyn o bentref 70 metr i'r gogledd o'r eiddo a elwir "Seaview" i'r gogledd am bellor o 5 metr ac sy'n 5 metr a led, ac a ddangosir newydd llaw du solet ar y plan a adnewydd.

ii. Mynedfa breifat i dir amserthiaddol i'r daf o'r rheilffordd (A.O. 5553), a leoli yng nghornel ogledd-ddwyrainol croesffordd y Ffordd ddeledusdarth rhwng Ffordd Llanllidiad a'r B4265 brassennol, sy'n ymestyn o bentref 60 metr i'r gogledd o'r eiddo a elwir "Seaview" i'r gogledd am bellor o 6 metr ac sy'n 5 metr a led, ac a ddangosir newydd llaw du solet ar y plan a adnewydd.

ATODLEN 3

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ATODLEN 4

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ATODLEN 5

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Rhan arofaloedd ei siap o brifordd ddeiniwr sy'n ymestyn a bentref 245 metr i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o'r eiddo a elwir "Seaview", i gylchred y gogledd-ddwyrain yn y gryffordd, am 12 metr fan bellaf, ac a ddangosir a linellau rhesgig main ar y plan a adnewydd.

ATODLEN 6

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Welsh Assembly Government

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

THE DIVERSION OF HIGHWAYS
(ST ATHAN, VALE OF GLAMORGAN) ORDER 201-

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Welsh Ministers propose, to make an Order under Section 24B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 125 of the Highways Act 1980 to authorise the diversion of the area of highway described in Schedule 1 to this Notice; to authorise the stopping up of private means of access described in Schedule 2 to this Notice; to provide for the new area of highway described in Schedule 3 to this Notice; to provide for a new private means of access described in Schedule 4 to this Notice and to improve the area of highway described in Schedule 5 to this Notice.

If the Order is made, the diversion and stopping up will be authorised only in order to enable the development described in Schedule 6 to this Notice to be carried out. The Order also provides for the new length of highway described in Schedule 3 to this Notice and improved highway described in Schedule 5 to this Notice to become highway maintainable at the public expense. The Order will cease to have effect if the planning permission expires or is revoked.

During the 28 days from 7 January 2010, copies of the draft Order and the deposited plan may be inspected free of charge at the offices of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Dock, Barry CF63 4RT and Llanrwst Major Public Library, Llanrwst Road, Llanrwst Major CF61 1XZ during normal office hours or may be obtained free of charge from the address below.

Within the above mentioned period of 28 days, any person may, by notice to the Welsh Assembly Government, Transport and Strategic Regeneration, Orders Branch, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3HQ object to the making of the Order. Should you wish to object, support or make representations, we may need to consult with people and organisations outside of the Welsh Assembly Government. As part of the process of consulting with others the information you have given us and your personal data will be passed to the applicant/developer and on occasion the local highway authority to enable them to respond to you. We will however, only disclose your personal details where it is necessary to do so to enable us to deal with issues you have brought to our attention. Where a Diversion Order becomes the subject of a Public Inquiry (PI), all correspondence is copied to the Inspector of the Inquiry and is kept in the PI Library when it is publicly available. A copy of the Order and Notice can be viewed at www.wales.gov.uk (Select: Legislation/Subordinate Legislation/Draft Legislation/Draft Non Statutory Instruments/Town and Country Planning Act: Stopping Up Orders).

M D BURNELL,
Transport Planning and Governance Division

SCHEDULES

Areas of highway north of the property known as "Seaview" at St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan.
(All measurements are approximate)

SCHEDULE 1

Description of the area of highway to be diverted under this Order.

An irregularly shaped area of un-named highway between Llanrwst Road and the B4265 having a maximum length of 144 metres and a maximum width of 5 metres shown in zebra hatching on the deposited plan.

SCHEDULE 2

Description of private means of access to be stopped up under this Order.

i. A private means of access to agricultural land south of the railway (D.S.3159), situated in the north-western corner of the crossroads of the undeveloped road between Llanrwst Road and the present B4265, extending from a point 70 metres north of the property known as "Seaview" northwards for a distance of 5 metres and 5 metres in width and shown in solid black on the deposited plan.

ii. A private means of access to agricultural land south of the railway (D.S. 5553), situated in the north-eastern corner of the crossroads of the undeveloped road between Llanrwst Road and the present B4265, extending from a point 60 metres north of the property known as "Seaview" northwards for a distance of 6 metres and 5 metres in width and shown in solid black on the deposited plan.

SCHEDULE 3

Description of the area of new highway to be provided under this Order.

An irregularly shaped area of new highway extending from a point 251 metres north-east of the property known as "Seaview", in a south-westerly direction to a junction with a new proposed southern access road to the properties known as "Batslays", continuing southward to a junction with the new proposed B4265 improvement shown in stipple marking on the deposited plan.

SCHEDULE 4

Description of area of new private means of access to be provided under this Order.

A private means of access to agricultural land south of the railway, east of the railway bridge (O.S.5553), extending from a point 271 metres east of the property known as "Seaview", north-eastwards for a maximum of 12 metres and shown in this diagonal hatching on the deposited plan.

SCHEDULE 5

Description of the area of highway to be improved under this Order.

An irregularly shaped area of un-named highway extending from a point 245 metres north-east of the property known as "Seaview", in a generally north-easterly direction for approximately 57 metres and shown in cross hatching on the deposited plan.

SCHEDULE 6

The development.

The diversion of highways, the stopping up of private means of access and provision of new private means of access in conjunction with the scheme for the establishment of a Defence Technical College and the development and improvement of the St Athan Aerospace Business Park at St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan in accordance with planning permission granted under Part II of the Act of 1990 by the Council on 1 December 2009 under the reference numbers P/D/C/2009/00500/OUT and P/D/C/2009/00501/OUT.

A COPY OF THIS NOTICE IN LARGER PRINT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORT AND STRATEGIC REGENERATION, TRANSPORT PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE DIVISION, ORDERS BRANCH, CATHAYS PARK, CARDIFF CF10 3NQ.

Charities benefit from car club members



ABOVE: Heronsbridge headteacher Chris Major (on left) receives a cheque from SWCCC's Vince Jones.

THE Wales Air Ambulance and Heronsbridge special needs school, are the latest charities in south Wales to benefit from the antics of a bunch of classic car enthusiasts drawn from across the region.

were paramedic Rhodri Thomas, who received £1,000 from club vice-chairman Stuart Powell on behalf of Wales Air Ambulance, and headteacher Chris Major, who also received £1,000 on behalf of Heronsbridge from club member Vince Jones – whose daughter attends the school.

Stuart explained: "We enjoy driving, restoring and talking about old cars, and because many people share our interest by attending the annual show and supporting club events, we can use that enthusiasm to help many deserving causes."

The club meets on the first Monday of every month at the Hunter's Lodge public house, Brackla, and membership is open to anyone with an interest in classic cars.



Wales Air Ambulance paramedic Rhodri Thomas receives a cheque from vice-chairman SWCCC Stuart Powell.

Vale Christmas tree collections

THE Vale Council is again collecting Christmas trees at the kerbside for recycling.

both the council's green and food waste.

"The trees are shredded, composted down and used on the farm as a soil conditioner.

Residents can then take advantage of this by collecting free compost from the farm on the last Saturday of every month, thereby closing the recycling loop.

"Residents are asked to contact the farm on 07973 894773 or 01446 772600 in advance."

Real Christmas trees can also be recycled free of charge in garden waste skips at the Llandow and Sully Household Recycling Centres.

Out and About with The GEM

'Former Witch's home' gets makeover from students

RIGHT:

Welsh Bac learners at work on Cliff Wood Cottage.

THE former home of a woman tried as a witch is being rebuilt by students from Barry College in the woods at Porthkerry Country Park.

A college spokesperson explained: "The construction learners are helping to partially rebuild Cliff Wood Cottage in the park, which will be used as an area for talks on some of the legends and history of the area. In the 18th century, its resident, Ann Jenkins, was tried as a witch for supposedly putting a curse on a local man and his servant."

"The students, all first-year Brickwork



learners who are completing the Welsh Bac as part of their course, will use local, reclaimed materials to carry out the work which will form an element of their coursework.

Mel Stewart, Vale Council country park ranger, said: "From our point of view it's a real bonus having the students here. We're putting in a Heritage Lottery bid for the park and we con-

tacted the college to see if it would be interested in working in partnership with us."

"What we want to do

is turn what remains of

the cottage into a story telling area. The students will also work on an old saw mill in the park."

"Local archaeologists excavated it 20 years ago, but the boys are bringing it back to life. They will rebuild sections of the wall and replace the floor, using materials that have been scavenged from around the cottage and the stream. They're using parts of the original building that have lain untouched for hundreds of years."

Rock revival at Barry!

BARRY Arts Centre's annual show 'A Rock 'N' Roll Christmas' at the Barry Arts Hall in Winston Road, Barry, was directed by the youth members of the group.

The scenery and the Time Machine voices served to explain quite simply what the show was about.

The whole show took us back to the good old 'rock 'n' roll' era with some lighthearted fun and humour.

This was a multi-talented show and it was amazing to see youngsters enjoying the jiving and music that has revolutionised light entertainment for generations.

The audience showed their appreciation by joining in the many well-known lyrics.

If you are interested in joining the adult or junior section of the Barry Arts Centre, contact the secretary for further information on 029 2063 3217.

GF

Win free tickets to Holiday on Ice Spirit

AN exhilarating fusion of fire, air, earth and water - that is the theme of the sensational new Holiday on Ice production, *Spirit*.

Artistic director Robin Cousins MBE and choreographer Karen Kresge have co-produced this cultural extravaganza of inspirational ice skating, which sees skaters tumble from the sky in amazing, airborne gymnastics and spiral and dance on the ice with dynamic energy.

The production comes to Cardiff's International Arena between February 9-14, and The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL,



February 9 show - to be in with the chance of winning a pair just answer this question:

Who is the artistic director of *Spirit*?

Answers on a postcard, marked 'Spirit Competition', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL,

to arrive no later than January 15 (Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into).

Tickets start from £14.50 with all children at £10 (subject to a booking fee) - big savings for groups; visit www.holidayonice.co.uk for more information.

Soloist thrills concert audience

ON December 22, Barry Ladies' Choir held its annual Christmas concert at the Masonic Hall, Barry.

The audience turnout was excellent, and in such awful weather, the choir was very grateful.

The new format, arranged by director Alice Jones, accompanied by pianist Emma Arscott Binns, was very well received.

The compere was John Farrier, who amused everyone with his anecdotes.

Guest soloist was Llio Evans, whose beautiful voice fairly rang through the hall. She is a first-class honours graduate in RWCMD and studies with voice tutor, the soprano Suzanne Murphy and coach Only Men Aloud's Jeff Howard.

The programme was supported by the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services, through the Kick Start III Grant Scheme.

CW

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(Optional extra: £2.50 supplement per person*)

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Ever Green: Chinese Greens (Chinese slim Broccoli)

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Casteland Community Centre Belvedere Crescent Niki 01446 740394

Cowbridge - 10.00am

The Duke of Wellington High Street Linda 01656 890708

EVENING GROUPS

MONDAY

Barry - 4.30 & 6.30pm

Brynsion Hall, Junction of Court Road and Llanover Street Lorraine 01446 407002

Penarth - 6.30pm

Elded Avenue Methodist Church Elded Road Niki 01446 740394

Rhose - 6.30pm

Celtic Way Community Centre Celtic Way Helen 01446 750738

THURSDAY

Barry - 6.00pm

Highlight Park Comm, Centre, Barry Annmarie 01446 736534

Dinas Powys - 6.30pm

The Cabin, by swimming pool Hebron Hall Lorraine 01446 407002

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AS WAS reported in last week's GEM, Porthcawl's Christmas swim continues to go from strength to strength.

By the end of the morning, the collection boxes were full and the swimmers had worked up a healthy appetite for Christmas dinner.

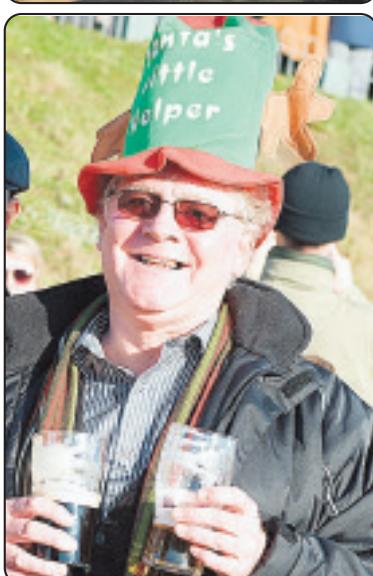
The event changes from year to year – usually depending on how cold the wind is.

This year, with a warm sun and a still day, it was pleasant just to hang around on the beach and soak up the atmosphere of Porthcawl's best tradition!



Christmas swimmers made a real splash!

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase,
telephone 07974 518347)
These and other pictures of
the event can be viewed on
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Birthdays

William (Bill) Taylor
Happy 90th Birthday Dad
8th January

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Jill & Les, Paul & Ann,
Elaine & John,
all your Grandchildren
and Great Grandchildren

xxx

MARY ISAAC
Happy 80th Birthday

on Tuesday, 12th January, 2010

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Penblwydd Hapus Iawn!
Cariad mawr 'wrth,
Margaret, Emry a Bethan.

xxx

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Family Notices**HOPKIN**
Ralph

Suddenly on December 27th, at his home in St Athan, Ralph, beloved husband of the late Pat, dearly loved father of Philip (Pip), Robert (Bob), Alan and the late Susan (Suzie), father-in-law of Sally, Allyson, Carol and John, much loved by all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home

of W James & Sons, Fonmon.

Funeral Monday January 11th, service 1.30pm at St Athan Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

GARY JONES

5.5.1942 - 18.12.2009

Pam, Gill, Simon and family are grateful for the warmth, kindness and expressions of sympathy shown to them in their sad loss.

A heartfelt thank you for all the care and support given to Gary and family at Holme Towers. Also, sincere thanks to the Reverend Melanie Prince, W James Funeral Directors and everyone involved in the moving service.

Many thanks for all the generous donations towards Holme Towers, Cancer Care, Penarth.

PUGH
William

Peacefully on 28th December, 2009, in Harlow, after a short illness, Bill of Canon Street, Barry, beloved husband of the late Margaret, much loved father to Geraint, Enid, Elaine, Gail and Gerwyn, Loving Grandfather and Great Grandfather.

Resting at A G Adams and Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the service in All Saints Church, Barry on Monday, 11th January, 2010, where the family would appreciate all family and friends, past and present, to join them at the service at 10.30am followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Cancer Research Wales or Help for Heroes.

JACKSON
Dilwyn

On January 1, peacefully at Brocasle Manor Care Home, Dilwyn (Smiler) of Llantwit Major.

Beloved husband of the late June, dearly loved father of Angela, Huw and Simon, father-in-law of Chris and Jayne, stepfather of the late Gregory, much loved by all his grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday January 15, service 12.30pm at St Illtys Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.45pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

ANTHONY
Joseph Francis

On Tuesday December 29, Frank aged 88 years of Llantwit Major, passed away suddenly but peacefully. Much loved father to Peter, Raymond and Katina, 'Opa' to James, Grace, Jonathan and Luke.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon until the Requiem Mass at Our Lady & St Illtys RC Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major on Monday January 11 at 10am followed by interment in Llantwit Major Cemetery. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to RNLI c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

Engagements**Ayne & Waldron-Kelly**

Chris and Christine Ayne of Sully are pleased to announce the

ENGAGEMENT
of their daughter

Michelle Ayne to

Barri Waldron-Kelly

son of Jacqueline and John Waldron-Kelly of Llantwit Major on 25th December, 2009.

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xx

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Public Notice**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING
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ACT, 1990****CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO
(ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD
CADWRAETH) 1990**

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:
HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiodd gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

**Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardalodd Cadwraeth**

Application No:/

Rhif y cais:

Proposal/Cynnig:

Location/Lleoliad:

Conservation Area:

/Ardal Gadwraeth

2009/01280/FUL

Conversion of garage to provide accommodation for parents
Vicarage Lawns, St Brides Major

St. Brides Major

Application No:/

Rhif y cais:

Proposal/Cynnig:

Location/Lleoliad:

Conservation Area:

Ardal Gadwraeth

2009/01282/FUL

Construct new bedroom projections to front and new garden room extension to rear, new single detached garage and boundary wall and gate to front 91, Broadway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge

Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No./Rhif y cais:

2009/01294/FUL

Demolition of existing sub-standard cottage and

replacement with new dwelling and garage

Caradoc Cottage, Llancarfan Llancarfan

Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth

2009/01294/FUL

Demolition of existing sub-standard cottage and

replacement with new dwelling and garage

Caradoc Cottage, Llancarfan Llancarfan

**Listed Building Consent
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig**

Application No:/

Rhif y cais:

Proposal/Cynnig:

Location/Lleoliad:

Conservation Area:

2009/01304/LBC

Construction of glass porch

66, High Street, Cowbridge

Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynnllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrest Ceisiadau Ar-vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995**
**GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
(TRENF DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995****Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Diddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd**

Application No:/

Rhif y cais:

Proposal/Cynnig:

Location/Lleoliad:

Construction of 21 no. additional ponds and the erection of 5 no. bat houses. Twenty four sites at and around MoD St Athan and the Aerospace Business Park, extending from B4265 at Bovertyn in the west to Castleton Farm, St. Athan, in the east, and from the B4265 at Batslays in the south to Picketston in the north.

Outline application for re-development of caravan site for residential development, with associated open space
Ogmore By Sea Caravan Park, Hazelwood, Ogmore By Sea

**Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way
Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus**

Application No:/

Rhif y cais:

Proposal/Cynnig:

Location/Lleoliad:

Provision of hardstanding parking area for vehicles and access track
Pant Wilkin Stables, Llanquian Road, Aberthin

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

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Dated: 7 January, 2010

Rob Thomas

Head of Planning and Transportation

The Vale of Glamorgan Council,

Dock Office,

Barry Docks,

Barry

CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 7 Ionawr, 2010
Rob Thomas
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Lifeguard club looks back on a momentous year – and announces plans for the next 50!



**Club captain
Steph Davenport
receives an award.**



ABOVE:
Founder member and inspiration, Dai 'Viking' Thomas, sadly died last year.

IT was in 1959 that Porthcawl Lifeguard Club (PLGC) set up as the first volunteer lifesaving club in Wales, and 2009 saw PLGC celebrating its 50th anniversary in style – while 2010 promises to be the start of another historic era for the club!

A club spokesman said: "The year saw the club growing in numbers at the weekly beach and pool training, with more and more youngsters joining the nippers and juniors – and lots of the grown-ups getting involved in the seniors."

"The rejuvenated club competed in, and hosted, surf lifesaving competitions against the strongest clubs in Wales, and got some great results."

"There were also away trips, weekend campouts, barbecues, black tie dinners, presentations and accolades."

"The club proudly hosted the Welsh Open Championships for SLSA Wales, and the Around The Bay Swim, followed by a fantastic Porthcawl Nipper Carnival."

"PLGC got a big feather in their cap as they went on to receive the Welsh Nipper Club of the Year Award, in recognition of the amazing hard work the club volunteers have put in to support youngsters."

"There were lots of other things happening throughout the year too, for example, a dozen of the club's Nippers took part in a climate change film-making workshop. It is their future after all."

Club captain Steph Davenport said: "Well done to all those who competed, gained awards, trained and gave time to helping the club become a friendly, positive and well-respected Surf Lifesaving Club."

The volunteers of the club work alongside professional lifeguards and the summer saw some dramatic rescues.

The need for beach safety was horribly brought home to all through the tragic death of a local youngster from the harbour slipway.

The historic year also marked the end of a seven-year planning application to build a new Lifeguard Station, with news that the new building can go ahead within Porthcawl's 'Regeneration Zone'.

PLGC have raised £300,000 from WAG for a new club house above Rhych Point and for founding club member Dai 'Viking' Thomas, who helped build the original club and worked tirelessly in support of the new building, this was a triumph of persistence!

The new building is designed with the younger members in mind, making it colourful and practical. The building, apart from great facilities for the club, will also house public toilets and showers.

Tragically, Dai Thomas died of cancer during the summer and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. His legacy, though, will be as a key part of lifeguard culture in the town, with the new club building being named after him, along with the Dai Viking Cup, sponsored by Porthcawl and District Tourist Association, which is now part of the annual Around the Bay Swim.

The club joined in the Christmas Swim – and carried out a beach clean on Coney Beach the Sunday before as part of their ongoing commitment to improving the local environment, as PLGC has 'adopted' Coney Beach under the Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch scheme.

Rounding off the year with a frosty Christmas Morning swim seemed the perfect end to a momentous year, looking forward to bright things to come!

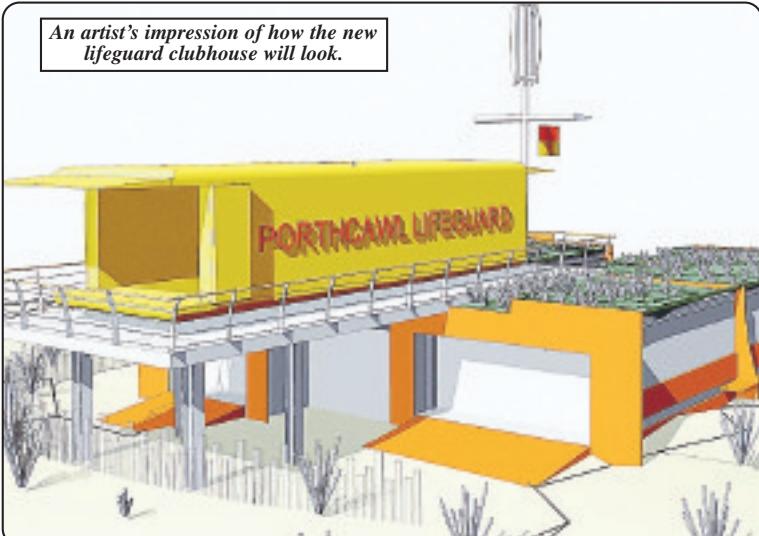
The first stage of the David 'Viking' Thomas building will start in February, with completion in March.

The building comes at a time when the club is really on the up and will hopefully become a symbol of a bright future for the whole town.

RT



Club members at a summer event.



An artist's impression of how the new lifeguard clubhouse will look.



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05 BMW 116i SE 5-dr	In sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary 1-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights + auto wipers
05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible	In Tellur silver, black leather interior, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh
05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 T Bluetec CD Automatic 5-door Station Wagon.	In British tan with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles
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05 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate.	In Royal blue, Monaco ash half leather interior, alloy wheels, climate control, multi-function steering wheel, only 32,320 miles
04 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.	In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles
04 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 16v 5-dr Hatchback.	In Sahara yellow with half anthracite leather/suede interior, multi CD, windows, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles
04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr hatchback.	In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles
02 HONDA Accord 2.3i VTEC Type V (150) in Atlantic blue with tan leather interior, electric drivers seat, sunroof, alloy wheels, climate control, rear parking sensors, only 48,000 miles	£4,495
01 Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)	In met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + central control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,010 miles
00 X TVR Tuscan 4 litre 8W 360bhp.	In crystal topaz pearl blue with portland grey leather interior, cd, 18" spyder wheels, e/windows, car alarm, e/mirror and substantial options, only 36,000 miles
00 X BMW 325Ci 2.5i 2-Door Convertible.	In Brilliant silver with Montana grey leather interior, automatic air con, rear parking sensors, electric seats, alarm, alloy wheels, hard top in body coloured bumpers, only 87,720 miles
99 T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.	In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, only 51,300 miles

FAMILY

07 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5-dr Hatchback.	In tonic blue with heated front screen, climate control, CD, cruise control, only 16,700 miles
06 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr hatchback.	In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles
06 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr MPV	In tonic blue with dark flint interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 31,000 miles
06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 16V 5-dr Hatchback.	In hurricane grey with Ikhø black interior, front fog lights, multi CD, colour coded bumpers, only 31,016 miles
05 CITROËN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v 110HP Exclusive 5-dr MPV.	Oriental blue, blue interior, cruise, auto lights, front fog, steering wheel mounted audio controls, only 32,355 miles
05 CITROËN Xsara Picasso Exclusive 1.6HDi.	In icelandic green metallic with doris blue interior, cruise control, climate control, alloy wheels, trip computer, cd, 1 owner, only 29,420 miles
04 PEUGEOT 206 SW 2.0 HDI 90 XSi 5-dr Estate.	In China blue, black/grey merlin interior, a/c, body coloured bumpers, cd, alloys, only 45,796 miles
04 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 16v Authentique	In met grey with anthracite interior, a/c, auto wipers, auto lights, only 39,000 miles
04 MAZDA 3 1.6TS 5-dr Hatchback	In titanium grey with blue sport cloth interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, steering wheel mounted audio controls, only 54,805 miles
04 TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 VVT-i T-Sport Auto 4-dr Saloon.	Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles
04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 120 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.	In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 42,955 miles
02 AUDI A4 1.9 TDI SE.	In denim blue with phoenix blue upholstery, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles
01 Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon.	In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles

SMALL

08 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVT-i T2 5-dr Hatchback.	In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles
08 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Breeze	In black sapphire, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles
08 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Life	In all blue met with punch cloth, body coloured bumpers, remote central locking, elec windows, alarm and immobiliser, only 4,966 miles
07 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi 68 Extreme hatchback.	In black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, only £35 per year road tax, 27,650 miles
07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Expression 3-dr	In platinum silver met with volle interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, remote central locking, elec windows, alarm and immobiliser, only £35 per year road tax, 27,650 miles
06 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi 106 Dynamique S 5 speed 3-dr Hatchback.	In eclipse black, dark interior, a/c, CD, colour coded bumpers, one owner, only 37,575 miles
06 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-dr Hatchback.	In tonic blue with Kompass blue interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, only 39,475 miles
06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus Sport	In pearl black pearlescent with extreme interior, colour coded bumpers, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, elec windows, only 22,488 miles
05 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVT-i Sport	In carbon quartz met with dark flint interior, alloy wheels, cd, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, elec windows, only 51,300 miles
05 FORD KA 1.6 3-dr Hatchback.	In tonic blue with ebony leather interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 6,980 miles
04 PEUGEOT 106 1.1 12V 5-dr	In silver with black interior, body coloured bumpers, cd, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, only 43,895 miles
04 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback.	In Platinum silver with dark grey interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, CD, front fog, only 37,700 miles
04 FORD Ka 1.3 Style 3-dr Hatchback.	In moondust silver with digit anthracite interior, CD, power steering, colour coded bumpers, only 48,655 miles
03 VW Beetle 3-dr Hatchback.	In platinum grey with Cavasta grey interior, heated seats, CD, electric windows, only 30,850 miles
03 Nissan Micra 1.0 E hatchback.	In aruba blue with urban interior, body coloured bumpers, cd, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, only 38,000 miles
02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr	In platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles
02 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback	In met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,065 miles
02 DAEWOO Matiz 0.8 SE 5-dr	In super red with grey interior, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 30,888 miles
01 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr	In platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16" inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46,010 miles
L 93 AUSTIN Mini 1.3 Sprite 2-dr Saloon Automatic.	In night fire red with grey interior, all original specification, only 47,215 miles

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155/70TR13 Bridgestone B250	£40.87	£78	£150	155/70TR13 Avon CR322	£34.48	£65	£125
165/70TR13 Bridgestone B250	£45.83	£87	£165	165/70TR13 Avon CR322	£36.61	£68	£130
175/70TR14 Bridgestone B250	£57.79	£110	£200	175/70TR14 Avon CR322	£45.27	£85	£160
175/65TR14 Bridgestone B250	£47.15	£89	£170	175/65TR14 Avon CR322	£40.10	£75	£140

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BRIDGESTONE	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	AVON	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
185/60HR14 Bridgestone ER300	£55.66	£105	£199	185/60HR14 Avon ZV3	£45.87	£87	£169
185/65HR14 Bridgestone B250	£63.83	£120	£225	185/65HR14 Avon ZV3	£50.51	£95	£185
185/65HR15 Bridgestone ER300	£73.84	£140	£265	185/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£54.89	£105	£199
195/65HR15 Bridgestone B250	£66.20	£125	£235	195/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£52.02	£99	£190

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BRIDGESTONE	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	AVON	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/50VR15 Bridgestone ER300	£51.85	£99	£189	195/50VR15 Avon ZV3	£45.83	£85	£160
195/60VR15 Bridgestone ER300	£68.71	£130	£249	195/60VR15 Avon ZV5	£58.46	£112	£215
195/65VR15 Bridgestone ER300	£64.34	£120	£230	195/65VR15 Avon ZV5	£51.14	£97	£185
205/55VR16 Bridgestone ER300	£66.73	£125	£235	205/55VR16 Avon ZV5	£62.66	£120	£230

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205/55WR16 Bridgestone ER300	£72.40	£140	£265	205/55WR16 Avon ZV5	£66.20	£128	£249
225/45VR17 Bridgestone RE050	£102.54	£195	£375	225/45VR17 XL Avon ZV5	£85.94	£165	£320
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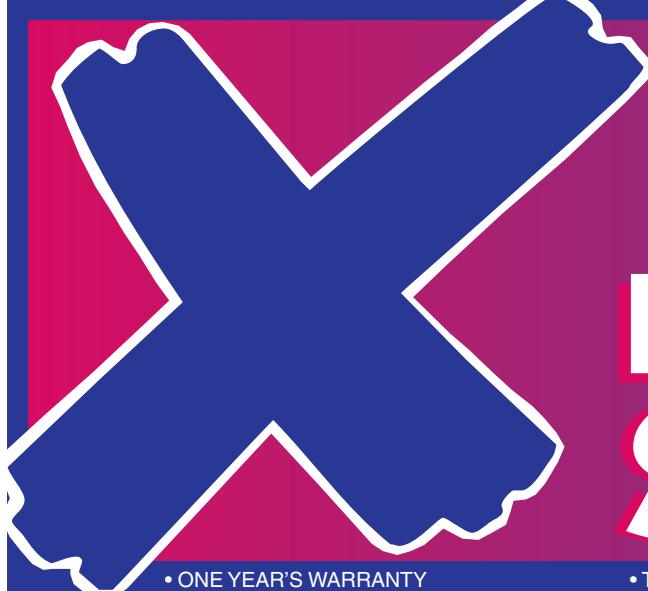
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Red, 16,501 miles £6,995



05 CITROEN C3 1.6i 16v Exclusive 5 dr
Blue, 24,769 miles £6,495



07 CITROEN Berlingo Multispace 1.6HDi 16v
Dsl Estate, Red, 44,037 miles £6,995



05 CITROEN C3 1.1i Desire 5 dr Hatch SE
Black, 19,390 miles £4,995



07 CITROEN C4 Grand Picasso 2.0 HDi 16v
EGS Dsl, Silver, 21,659 miles £13,995



CITROEN C2

				WAS	NOW
58	1.4i HDi VTR 3 dr Diesel Hatch	Black	9,091 miles	£8,995	£8,495
08	1.4i VTR 3dr Hatch	Silver	15,846 miles	£7,995	£7,495
07	1.1i Airplay + 3 dr Hatch Special Edition	Yellow	12,133 miles	£6,495	£5,995
06	1.6i 16v VTR 3 dr Senso Drive Hatch	Blue	14,000 miles	£6,995	£6,495
05	1.6i 16v VTS 3 dr Hatch	Silver	30,652 miles	£5,995	£5,495

CITROEN C3

59	Pluriel 1.4i Cote d'Azur 2 dr Special Edition	Black	50 miles	£10,995	£10,495
08	1.4 HDi Cachet 5 dr Hatch Special Edition	Grey	13,412 miles	£8,495	£7,995
08	1.4i Cachet 5 dr Hatch Special Edition	Silver	11,905 miles	£7,995	£7,495
57	1.4i Cool 5 dr Hatch Special Edition	Silver	7,686 miles	£6,995	£6,495
56	1.4i SX 5 dr Hatch	Grey	19,342 miles	£6,495	£5,995
55	1.6i 16v Exclusive 5 dr Senso Drive Hatch	Blue	24,769 miles	£6,495	£5,995
05	1.1 Desire 5 dr Hatch Special Edition	Black	19,390 miles	£4,995	£4,495

CITROEN C4

07	1.4i 16v LX 5 dr Hatch	Blue	18,000 miles	£6,495	£5,995
56	1.6 16v Cool 3 dr Coupe Special Edition	Silver	29,002 miles	£6,995	£6,495
06	1.6iHDi 16v VTR Plus 3 dr Diesel Coupe	Silver	10,573 miles	£8,995	£8,495
56	1.6iHDi 16v SX 5 dr Diesel Hatch	Silver	19,901 miles	£7,995	£7,495

CITROEN C4 PICASSO

57	2.0i 16v SX 5 dr EGS Estate	Silver	7,723 miles	£10,995	£10,495
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CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO

08	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5 dr Diesel Estate	Blue	8,749 miles	£14,995	£14,495
58	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5 dr Diesel Estate	Grey	19,441 miles	£14,995	£14,495
57	1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5 dr Diesel Estate	Mauve	12,659 miles	£13,995	£13,495

CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE

07	1.6i 16v Forte 5 dr Estate	Silver	9,797 miles	£6,595	£6,095
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CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

07	1.6 HDi 92 VTX 5 dr Diesel Estate	Grey	23,826 miles	£8,695	£8,195
07	1.6i 16v Desire 5 dr Estate	Silver	44,648 miles	£6,995	£6,495
56	2.0 16v VTX 5 dr Auto Estate	Blue	30,215 miles	£8,595	£8,095
56	1.6 HDi 92 Exclusive 5 dr Diesel Estate	Grey	22,104 miles	£8,495	£7,995
56	1.6 HDi Exclusive 5 dr Diesel Estate	Grey	58,879 miles	£6,995	£6,495

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58	2.2 HDi H1 Van 120ps 33 L1 Diesel	White	5,041 miles	£10,995+vat	£10,495+vat
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57 Mercedes C220 CDI Sport 4dr New (Leather) in black, NEW SHAPE, diesel AUTO, AMG pk, full leather £17,995



07 Mercedes C320 CDI 3.0 Avantgarde SE Diesel in black met, 2007, DIESEL, 28K, FMSH, leather, Sat Nav, COMMAND £16,995



57 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 GT TDI 170 PS Sport in red, 170 BHP, ONLY 30K FVWSH. Immaculate l/lift, a/c, alloys, mp3 £14,995



05 BMW X3 2.0d M Sport 5dr [lthr] in silver met, ONLY 51k FSH. DIESEL Sport with leather, climate a/c £14,995



06 Mini Cooper S 1.6 Supercharged 3dr in silver met, CONVERTIBLE, leather, a/c ONLY 41K FMSH. Large balance of TLC pk. £11,995



54 Mitsubishi Shogun Warrior 3.2 DID Auto 5dr in aztec black met, with FULL java black stitched leather. Totally unmarked £11,250



04 Audi A4 2.4 Sport Cabriolet Auto CVT in yellow met, ONLY 27,000 miles. ONE OWNER auto, lthr, a/c, £10,995



57 Mazda RX-8 231 5dr in grey pearl met, ONLY 9,000 miles. "AS NEW" lthr, a/c, 6sp, BOSE 6 disc CD £10,995



55 Volvo V70 2.4 D5 SE AWD Auto G-Tronic Diesel in yellow met, unmarked DIESEL. Loaded, lthr, a/c, pas, alloy massive spec please call. £10,995



56 Honda Civic 2.2 SE CDTI 5dr Diesel Sport Pk in red, NEW SHAPE 63k, DIESEL 5dr. Loaded, digi, a/c, alloys, e/w, PAS £8,995



55 Renault Megane RenaultSport 225 2.0T 3-dr in Athena met black, A/C, CD, PAS, alloy wheels, 33,000 miles £8,995



05 Mazda RX-8 231PS 4dr in red mica met, ONLY 28K FULL MAZDA SERVICE HISTORY. Lthr, alloys, BOSE. £8,495



08 Toyota Yaris 1.0 TR 5dr in red met, ONLY 12k, NEW SHAPE. FTS. In new cond, a/c, alloys £8,495



09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style (New) in red, NEW SHAPE covered ONLY 5,000 miles. Stunning with CD, Ipod Dock £7,995



07 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 16v DESIGN 3dr in blue metallic, NEW SHAPE 3dr, ONLY 14K FSH. Air con, pas, leather £6,995



07 Volkswagen Polo 1.2 S (60) 5dr (New) in silver met, ONLY 8K, NEW SHAPE, low insurance 1.2. AS NEW £6,995



07 Peugeot 207 1.4 Sport 5dr (a/c) in black met, NEW SHAPE, only 38k. FSH. Low insurance, alloys, a/c £6,995



05 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 DTi (120) Life Diesel 5str in black, NEW SHAPE 5dr 7 seater DIESEL. 60 K 120 BHP, beautiful condition £6,745



05 Renault Clio 2.0 Renaultsport 182 in silver. ONLY 48,000 miles FSH. Loaded 182 BHP £6,495



07 Citroen C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive 3dr in black met ONLY 32,000 miles. Semi Auto, alloys, CD, pas, e/w £5,495



05 Renault Modus 1.5 DCI 80 Dynamique in red metallic, DIESEL covered ONLY 47,000 miles. Low tax+ins. Loaded, alloys, a/c £5,195



05 Volkswagen Polo 1.4 TDI Twist 2 in black met. DIESEL 2005 ONE OWNER, FSH. A/C, Alloys, e/w £4,995



04 VW Polo 1.2 Twist 3-dr in met. grey, CD, A/C, PAS, C/L, 53,000 miles £4,995



05 Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6i Desire 5-dr in met. silver, A/C, PAS, CD, 38,000 miles £4,995

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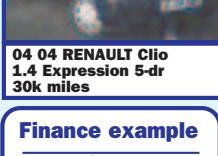
£3,975



£4,975



£4,675



**04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Expression 5-dr
30k miles**

£4,675

Finance example

Amount of credit:

£4975.00

35 Monthly payments
of £163.06

Final payment of £462.06
Total charge for credit
£1194.16

Total amount payable
£6169.16

Weekly equivalent £39.55
APR 14.82%

*Photos are indicative only

Small Cars

02 02 FIAT Seicento Sporting 1.1 3dr. Met black, 58k miles, cd, pas, alloys	£1,975
03 53 FORD Ka 1.3 Style. Silver met, 40k miles, rcl, cd, ew, pas	£2,975
02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, a/c, e/w, alloys	£3,475
04 53 FIAT Punto 1.3 Active 5-dr. Grey, 71k miles, cd, ew, pas, city beater, cd	£3,475
03 03 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5dr. Blue met, 47k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd	£3,675
04 04 FIAT Panda 1.2 Dynamic AUTO 5dr. 19k miles, blue met, rcl, cd, ew, low miles ..	£3,975
02 52 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 S 3dr. Bright yellow, 63k miles, ew, cl, PAS	£3,975
03 03 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 AUTO. Blue met, 25k, rcl, pas,ew,cd	£4,475
03 03 SKODA Fabia 1.9 TDi Turbo Diesel 5dr. Green met, 61k miles, rcl, cd, alloys ..	£4,475
04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 3dr SXI. Blue metallic, 53k miles, rcl, alloys, ew, pas ..	£4,475
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd ..	£4,475
07 07 HYUNDAI Amica 1.1 GSi 5dr. Blue metallic, 20k miles, ew, cd, pas	£4,475
04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Expression 5dr. Blue met, 32k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd ..	£4,675
05 55 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVT-i Colour Collection 3-dr. Met grey, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, pas, ew	£4,975
06 06 SMART Fortwo City Coupe AUTO. Met silver, alloys, a/c, rcl, cd	£4,975
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Metallic purple, 12k miles rcl,pas,ew,cd ..	£5,975
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles	£6,975
08 08 SUZUKI Swift 1.3 gl 5dr. Met orange with silver stripes, 19k miles, rcl, alloys, cd	£7,975

Family Cars

03 03 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4E 5-dr. Gold met, 50k miles, rcl, cd, pas	£4,475
04 04 HONDA Jazz 1.4 DSi SE AUTO 5dr. Silver metallic, rcl,cd,ew,alloys	£4,975
05 05 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 Life 5-dr. Silver met, silk, ew, rcl, cd, ac	£5,475
05 05 VOLKSWAGEN Passat 1.9 TDI (100) TURBO DIESEL. Blue, 64k miles, rcl, ew, cd, ac	£5,975
05 55 VW Bora 1.9 TDI Highline. In bright red, 17 inch alloys, cd, climate, sports seats ..	£6,475
06 06 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec AUTO 5dr. Silver met, 44k miles, rcl, alloys, a/c, cd ..	£6,975
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, RCL, 5k miles ..	£6,975
06 06 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Ghia 5dr DIESEL. Tonic met, alloys, cd, fsh	£7,975

Sports & Executives

01 51 ROVER 75 2.5 V6 AUTO Connoisseur. Blue met, rcl, a/c, cd, alloys, e/w, nav, full leather	£4,475
03 03 FORD Focus ST170. Met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, half leather	£4,975
04 04 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE. Met silver, a/c, alloys, full leather upholstery	£4,975
04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 3dr (120bhp) Dynamique TURBO DIESEL. 60k miles, panoramic roof, rcl, a/c, e/w	£5,475
03 52 PEUGEOT 206cc Convertible. Silver met, 38k miles, rcl, e/w, cd, 2 tone leather	£5,975
08 58 JAGUAR XJR 4.2 Supercharged AUTO. Black met, 9k miles, alloys, rcl, full leather	£36,975

Estates, MPVs and 4x4s

02 51 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Comfort 7-seater. Silver met, rcl, a/c, ew	£3,675
03 52 FORD Focus 1.6 LX ESTATE. Met alloys, a/c, cd, roof rails, 60k miles	£3,975
05 05 NISSAN Almera Tino 1.8 SE MPV. Silver met, 32k miles, rcl, cd, a/c, ew, reverse, climate	£4,975
05 55 RENAULT Megane 1.5dci 3-dr Oasis. Blue met, 50k, Panoramic roof, alloys, rcl, cd, a/c, £35 tax	£5,475
06 56 CHEVROLET Tacuma 1.6 SX MPV. Black met, 26k miles, rcl, e/w, cd	£6,475
08 08 FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamic Sport. Grey, 12k miles, rcl, e/w, alloys, a/c ..	£7,175
07 07 LANDROVER Freelander 2.2 TD4 HSE. Black metallic, 23k miles, front and rear sensors,touch screen nav	£21,975

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96 N FORD Friedia AUTO 2.5 TURBO DIESEL. 96k miles, a/c, electric blinds, elevating roof	£4,975
04 04 FORD Street Ka 1.6 CONVERTIBLE. Blue met, 44k miles, alloys, rcl, cd	£4,975
03 53 MGTF 1.15 Sunstorm CONVERTIBLE. Black met, 49k miles, alloys, rcl, hard top	£4,975
04 53 MGTF 1.8 135 CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 31k miles, alloys, rcl, e/w, pas	£4,975
04 04 FORD Street Ka Luxury 1.6 CONVERTIBLE luxury. Black met, 49k miles, leather, rcl, a/c, cd, e/w	£5,475
06 06 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CONVERTIBLE. Black met, 21k miles, rcl, a/c, cd, e/w	£8,975
04 04 SAAB 93 2.0T VECTOR CONVERTIBLE. Grey met, 50k miles, alloys, cd, a/c, rcl, full leather	£9,475
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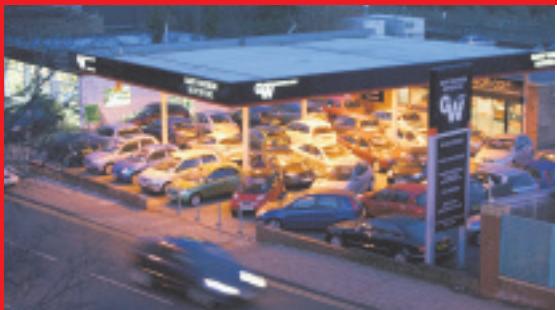
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06	MINI Cooper.	In met blue + white, 37,000 miles, 1 owner with chilli packand climate	REDUCED BY £300 TO £8,995
55	PEUGEOT 307 2.0 CC.	In black, 19,000 miles, 4 seater, steel roof convertible at	REDUCED BY £500 TO £8,495
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03	TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi T Sport.	In smoke silver, 74,000 miles, 1 owner, fsh	REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995
02	MAZDA MX5 1.8	In met silver, 53,000 miles, superb example	REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495
52	JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 SE Auto	In zircon blue with full leather trim, Sct cd, climate, etc	£4,995
52	HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE Automatic.	In silver with black leather trim, 60,000 miles, fantastic value at	£4,995
Y	PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0.	In silver, with black leather trim, low mileage local convertible	REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495
02	TOYOTA Corolla T-Sport 3-Dr.	In champagne metallic, 63,000 miles, 1 local owner, FSH	£4,295
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57	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr	In diablo red, 24,000 miles, under manufacturer warranty	£6,295
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56	FIESTA 125 Style Climate 3-dr.	In white, 33,000 miles with navy blue ST side stripes, looks great	£5,995
03	MINI 1.6 Automatic.	In black with full red leather trim, fantastic looking example.	REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995
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54	RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilage Automatic 5-dr.	In met jade with half leather tri, low mileage	£5,495
55	SUZUKI Swift 1.3 GL 3-dr.	In met blue with white stripes, 47,000 miles, sporty economical hatch at	£4,995
55	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr.	In met black, 25,000 miles, very desirable	£4,995
06	PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Quicksilver 3-dr.	31,000 miles, sought-after limited edition model	REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995
04	FIESTA 1.4 Flame 3-dr.	In black, low mileage local car at	£4,995
05	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi.	In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695
05	PEUGEOT 206 1.4S 5-dr.	Black, 50,000 miles, a/c, cd, etc	REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495
03	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression Automatic	In black, 1 owner, 31,000 miles	REDUCED BY £200 TO £4,295
03	SMART4Two. 700cc True Style Auto	In met black, panoramic roof, alloys, cd	£3,995
54	CITROEN C2 1.1LX 3-dr.	In met red with cd etc, local car on offer at	£3,995
54	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 Diesel SXi Automatic.	In silver, 73,000 miles	£3,995
04	RENAULT Clio 1.1 Extreme 3-dr.	In met black, 39,000 miles with s/roof, e/w, c/l, cd	£3,995
03	FORD Fiesta Finesse 1.4 5-dr Automatic	In metallic red, 35,000 miles, fsh	£3,695
03	MAZDA 323F 1.6 GS	In electric blue, 76,000 miles, reliable hatch at	£3,495
52	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-Dr.	In met. grey, 20,000 miles, 1 lady owner with a/c, s/r	£3,295
53	DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra	In met blue, 45,000 miles, spacious family hatch at	£2,995
03	FORD Ka 1.3i	In met blue, 45,000 miles, 1 owner, low running costs	£2,995
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03 CITROEN Saxo VTR 1.6. 74k, superb example, low ins group.



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04 RENAULT Megane 1.6 VTi Dynamique Cabriolet Coupe. Glass sunroof, full sports leather, only 40k with fsh, superb example



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57	CITROEN Berlingo Commercial. fsh, pas, lpg converted, low insurance	£3995
05	RENAULT Clio 1.6 Dynamique S (new shape). Met black, low miles, super bargain for only	£4995
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05	VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Design Auto. 45k, half leather, air con, cd system, alloys, desirable auto	£5495
54	RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique. 47k, s/history, 1 owner, a/c, alloys, full e/pack, sports interior	£4495
54	ROVER 25 SEi T Diesel. 48k, a/con, alloys, cd, superb MPG, top spec	£3995
53	HONDA Jazz 1.4 SE Sport Auto. 40k, FSH, lady owner, air con, CD player, low tax & ins	£4995
53	VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1/2E. 1 owner, 40k, fssh, cd system, e/windows, p/steering, low tax & ins	£3995
03	CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire. 40k, 2 owners, fsh, a/c, cd system, jazzy trim, low tax & ins, 40+mpg	£3995
03	PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Verve. 69k, lady owner, air con, e/windows, CD player, p/steering, only group 3 insurance	£3995
03	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Billabong LE. 54k, lady owner, s/roof, jazzy interior, cd system, low tax + ins	£3495
03	CITROEN Saxo 1.6 VTR. 70k, alloys, sunroof, CD system, sports interior, sporty looks with low insurance	£2995
03	RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression. 45k, lady owner, full e/pack, air con, CD system	£3195
03	FORD Ka 1.3. 60k, 2 owners, p/steering, low tax & ins, ideal 1st car at only	£2995
03	ALFA ROMEO 147 2.0 Lusso. fsh, alloys, a/c, cd system. Awesome car at	£2995
03	CITROEN Saxo 1.4 Furio. 37k. fsh, in silver, e/pack, cd system, low tax and insurance	£2995
52	FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5 dr. 70k in factory black, sought after model	£3495
52	CITROEN C3 1.4 SX. 60k, p/steering, cd system, e/pack, a/con, low tax & ins, good mpg	£3295
52	PEUGEOT 307 SW 1.6. 55k, a/c, sports trim, huge boot, finished in silver	£2995
52	TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 GS VVTi. 57k, fsh, a/con, cd system, sat nav, e/pack, superb	£2995
52	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Club, Low miles, pas, in flame red	£2495
02	VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Club 7 Seater. 70k, fsh, inc T/belt, a/c, cd player, e/pack, local MPV at	£3995
02	CITROEN Picasso 2.0 SX HDi. 59k, service history, a/con, cd system, fuel computer, multi-function wheel	£3995
02	RENAULT Clio 2.0 172 Sport. 79k, fsh, Xenons, a/c, multi cd, half leather/alcantara, superb example at	£3995
02	PEUGEOT 206 SW D/Turbo 2.0 HDi. 1 owner + Demo. Alloys, cd system, sports trim, super mpg	£3695
02	RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji. 1 owner, 50k, half leather, twin e/roofs, a/c, cd player, alloys, desirable at	£3495
02	RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji. 48k, s/history, air con, alloys, multi-disc, half leather, twin sunroofs	£2995
02	PEUGEOT 206 2.0 HDi D/Turbo SW Estate. Average miles, fully loaded, alloys, practical and reliable. Yours for	£2995
51	BMW 316 Ti Compact SE. Lady owner, service history, alloys, air con, multi-disc, cruise, reverse sensors, superb at	£4495
51	HONDA Accord 2.0 SE. 78k, fsh, alloys, a/con, plush trim, cd system, super condition, ideal family car	£2795
51	SKODA Fabia 1.2. Low mileage, power steering, well cared for example in metallic copper	£2495
51	FORD KA 1.3. 48k, lady owner, fully colour coded, e/pack, low tax + ins	£1995
51	FORD Fiesta 1.3 LX 3-dr. Only 61k, pas, in royal blue, only	£1995
Y	JAGUAR 2.5 V6 X-Type. 90k, fsh, alloys, a/c, cd system, chrome pack, tremendous value	£2995
Y	VW Golf 1.6 SE. FSH, lady owner, a/con, cd system, full e/pack, low insurance group	£2995
Y	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Comfort 16v. Lady owner, 50k, s/history, low tax + ins	£2695
Y	DAEWOO matiz SE. 44k, s/history, e/pack, alloys, low insurance. Superb economy	£1695
X	BMW 318 CI Coupe. Lady owner, e/pack, c/control, alloys, multi function s/wheel	£3995
X	RENAULT Clio 2.0 Sport. 80k, leather/alcantara trim, a/con, alloys, cd system, front fogs	£2995
X	LAND ROVER 1.8 XEi 3-dr. Alloys, air con, sunroof, two tone leather, alloys, lovely example	£2995
W	BMW 318 Ti Compact. fsh, alloys, cd player, M Tech accessories, desirable hatch at	£2695
W	HONDA Civic 1.4S Hatch. 90k, FSH, alloys, air con, sports interior, CD system, low tax & ins	£2395
W	VAUXHALL Omega 2-litre GLS Auto. Very clean car, superb value in steel blue, only	£1295
V	VW Bora 2.0 SE 80k, s/history, alloys, climate, e/pack, plush trim. German engineering at	£2495
V	ROVER 416 Saloon. S/history, e/pack, plush interior, ideal family saloon	£1295
T	VOLVO C70 2.4 Auto. Half leather, alloys, a/con, cd, hard to find at	£1995
T	FORD Mondeo 1.8 TD Di Ghia Estate. Superb order with only 2 owners, top of range model	£1495
S	FORD Ka 1300. 70k, pas, jazzy trim, lovely example, low tax & ins	£1395
N	SAAB 93 S Convertible Auto. leather, alloys, a/c, lady owner, nice example	£2495

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GEM sport

ON THE MOVE TO A NEW HOME... Now borough's young gymnasts can take a leap into the future

GYMNASTS at one of Wales' most successful gymnastics clubs – Bridgend YMCA – returned from the Christmas break to be given the exciting news that they're on the move to a new state-of-the-art home.

After more than 30 years at the YMCA's Angel Street premises, the club plans to move to the Bridgend Industrial Estate, where the facilities will allow it to significantly increase

the number of gymnasts coming through its doors, as well as offering specialist classes for special needs and pre-school children.

Its elite gymnasts, who include seven national squad members, will also benefit from significantly improved facilities, including a long sought-after full size competition floor.

The current premises are too small for a full sized-floor – vital for aspiring top gymnasts – let alone accommodating competitions and the general condition is now quite dilapidated. The club had hoped a

brand-new gymnasium would form part of the redevelopment of the YMCA site, but was told last year that it no longer figured in the plans.

With nearly 150 local

youngsters registered at the club, the hunt for new premises was under way.

Demands on floor

size and headroom limited the options available

but a suitable site was

eventually found at the

Industrial estate site.

Originally part of the

Sony complex, it has

been empty for some

time but, subject to

Bridgend Council

approving change of use,

it will soon be bustling

with activity.

The move will allow expansion of the club's activities under the direction of former Wales national coach, Gareth Davies. He is taking over the running of the club under the new name of Pen-Y-Bont Gymnastics.

Having run a major gymnastics academy in Surrey for the past 19 years, Porthcawl-based Davies says he is delighted to be home and able to develop a top-tier facility in the Bridgend area.

"We've lost so much top level sport in Bridgend, I think it's essential that we keep this club going and even

improve it. We don't want our youngsters having to travel to Swansea or Cardiff to train – we want to develop our future Olympians right here."

He said the coaches at Bridgend had achieved amazing results with sub-standard facilities:

"Imagine what we can do with the right facilities." Having coached at Olympic level himself, he is perfectly aware of what it takes to make it to the top.

"Our philosophy is to get as many youngsters as possible in through the doors, enjoying physical activity in a structured but fun way.

"Gymnastics helps these youngsters develop a healthy attitude towards their bodies and we all know how important that is. A membership like that will also give us the critical mass needed to continue the conveyor belt of talent in the area."

It is hoped the move to the new premises could be as early as February and when fully operational, will cater

for 600 youngsters, employing 15 coaches, as well as support staff.

Tondu restrict Pontypool Utd

TONDU under-13s played Pontypool United and started the stronger, playing down the slope.

Pontypool looked dangerous from broken play and Tondu full-back Nathan Richards was called upon to make a try-saving tackle on the Pontypool No 8.

The Tondu forwards won a regular supply of possession from the line-out and breakdown area which kept Tondu on the front foot. The breakthrough finally came when Lloyd Webb, who impressed throughout, ran into midfield and passed to Lewis Austin, who had the pace to touchdown at the corner. The try was converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Final score: Tondu 14, Pontypool United 5 EJ

During the second half, Pontypool put Tondu under relentless pressure, eventually rumbling over following a sequence of driving mauls.

Tondu upped their game and strong running by Rowan Davies and Carwyn Dent gave targets for the Tondu forwards to recycle quick possession. As a result of another strong run by Dent, Pontypool were awarded a lineout. The ball was tapped back aimlessly by the visitors, allowing Sam Matthews to pounce and touch down for the try, converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Seaweeds run off mince pies!

PORHCAWL 26
BLAENGARW 7

ON the coldest day since the last Ice Age, Porthcawl under-10s entertained the Garw side at Rest bay.

The coastal breeze only added to the icy conditions which many of the boys found difficult, evident by the number of knock-ons in the first half.

Blaengarw scored first, with a well worked try. The Porthcawl tackling was non-existent as the Garw powered over the line.

A conversion followed, but that was to be the only score of the half.

Porthcawl finally woke up in the second half with a fantastic try from Dan Williams. This was converted by Louis Protheroe and the Seaweeds had at last run off all those mince pies consumed over the festive period!

Louis himself was next to score a try and the compliment was returned as Dan converted.

Dan grabbed himself another touchdown as the green and blacks took control of a scrappy game. Joe Stradling was next to cross the line after a fine run, and converted the try himself.

Final score: Porthcawl 26, Blaengarw 7.

Rest of Porthcawl squad: Connor Grant, Ben Collins, Cameron Williams, Callum Morgan, Zakk Furness-Jones, Max Budding, Kurtis Pridmore, Ben Davies, Ben Roach, Meuryn Nelson, Joe Beale, Harry Beale, Sam Edwards.

IAN BUDDING

Point-to-point season to get under way

by BRIAN LEE

WEATHER permitting, the 2009/10 Welsh point-to-point season gets under way this coming Sunday (January 10) with the rearranged West Wales area club fixture at Lydstep – and a number of local horses have been entered.

The French-bred *Gorba*, owned by Tudor Harris and his son Richard, and trained by Abbi Vaughan at Aberthin, has been entered in the opening mares maiden race at 11.30, while Bridgend's David Bracke has entered several horses and these include *It's Danny Boy*, *Old Flame* and *Margam Abbey*.

The Llangeinor mare *Chesnut Annie* looks sure to start favourite for the mixed open race, and stable companions *It's Not Chesnut* and *Copper Carroll* should be noted in their respective races. Tony Brown's *Up The Boreen* is down to run in the club members' race.

KENFIG HILL MULES WIN THRILLER AGAINST ABERAFFON GREEN STARS

KENFIG HILL and Aberavon Green Stars second teams met in a highly entertaining game played in the cold sunshine at Little Warren, Aberavon.

The first half was played with ferocious intensity from both sets of eights, with numerous 'big hits' on both sides. The Mules scored a solitary try from centre Mark Fitzgerald to leave the score at half time 8 - 7 to the Stars.

The second half was a much more open and fluid affair, with both backlines looking threatening each time they were in possession. The Mules scored three quick converted tries, two from exciting prospect Tom Briggs and one by the mercurial Alex Pearce, to go into a 28 - 8 lead. However, the Stars responded in style with three converted tries of their own to regain the lead at 29 - 28.

But it was the Mules who finished the stronger, with a second try from skipper and man of the match Fitzgerald, and a long range penalty from scrum half Matthew Tossel with the last kick of the game to give the Mules a deserved victory by 36 - 29.

Special thanks to the referee and the Aberavon Green Stars players and officials for their enthusiasm in ensuring that the game went ahead despite the cold weather!



Captain Marc Fitzgerald crossing the Green Stars line for his first try.

GEM Quiz posers

AS there were no matches in the Bridgend GEM Quiz League until January 4, here are four brain-teasers:

1 "Invisible, silent, stolen" was the tag line of which 1990 Sean Connery film?

2 In which US state is Princeton University situated?

3 In American Football, which team are known as the "Chiefs"?

4 Which English King was murdered on September 22, 1327?

A Rudge
(Hon sec BGQL)

Maesteg student's coaching award

NATALIE DAVIES,

a year-11 student from Maesteg Comprehensive School, won national recognition for her contribution to sport at the annual Sports Council for Wales Coach of the Year awards.

Darren Robinson, Active Young People officer, said: "I first noticed Natalie as one of the participants attending the 5x60 club which takes place out of school hours, an initiative which encourages youngsters to become more active, more often.

"She progressed from dancing to both choreograph and 'mix' the music for school teams. Due to her interest in coaching and the potential she has shown, Natalie has recently become a County Accredited Sports Coach/Leader for the Active Young People Department, where we now look forward to involving her with many other projects and programmes in the borough.

"Natalie deserves this recognition and has shown herself to be an inspirational role model."



Kenfig Hill rugby treasurer Gary Chappell completing the Boxing Day swim in Porthcawl.

Read your GEM online: bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

GEM's Brian proves to be a top tipster

GEML columnist Brian Lee has won the Racing Post Weekender top tipster competition.

Brian (73), who has been reporting on the Welsh point-to-point scene for the national and local press for nearly half-a-century, left the 13 other area hunt racing correspondents trailing in his wake.

Carl Evans, who edits the Racing Post Weekender's point-to-point supplement writes:

"Congratulations to Brian Lee, a legend on the circuit in south Wales, and winner of the Racing Post Weekender bottle of bubbly for his six-to-follow selections last season.

"His squad won 16 races, and while that total was considerably boosted by 10-time winner *Chesnut Annie*, Lee's ability to identify the Connolly's Red Mill national champion at the start of the season was a feat in itself."

Brian's nearest rival was Tony Alcock from the South East who tipped nine winners.

Brian said: "This is the second time I have won the champagne – the last time was in

2004. However, I was unlucky not to have won it in 2006 as one of my selections went on to win six races on the bounce under rules, but only point-to-points and hunter chases count in the competition."

Brian has made *Chesnut Annie* one of his six to follow again this season, the others being *Margam Abbey*, trained by Bridgend's David Brace, *Micks Prospect* and *Master Charm*, trained by Abbi Vaughan at Aberthin, *Bob Bites Back* and *Lady Myfanwy*.